

Congressmen demand Abrams' ouster

WASHINGTON (R) — More than 100 members of the U.S. House of Representatives have signed a letter urging that Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams be sacked. The letter, sent Friday to Secretary of State George Shultz, said Mr. Abrams had deceived Congress about his role in the Iran-contra scandal and could no longer serve effectively. "He must resign or be replaced immediately," it said. Mr. Shultz defended Mr. Abrams, the State Department's top official for Latin American affairs, saying he had not broken any laws. At a news conference on Thursday at the conclusion of the Venice economic summit of industrialized democracies, President Reagan gave Mr. Abrams a lukewarm endorsement. Mr. Abrams has become a controversial figure in the investigation of secret U.S. arms sales to Iran, the diversion of profits to the Nicaraguan "contra" rebels, and a private network of support to the rebels at a time Congress had banned aid. He has said he did not know the extent of the network, orchestrated by then-White House aide Oliver North, and did not know it involved shipments of arms to the rebels. Mr. Abrams admitted misleading congressional committees about his solicitation of \$10 million from Brunei to aid the rebels. He said he had not been authorized to divulge the information.

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King sends good wishes to Aquino

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent on Thursday a cable of good wishes to Philippine President Corason Aquino congratulating her on the occasion of her country's Independence Day. In his cable the King wished President Aquino continuing good health and happiness, and the Philippines people further progress and prosperity.

Sagqaf heads for Cairo

AMMAN (Petra) — Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Mohammad Sagqaf left for Cairo on Friday heading two Jordanian delegations to attend meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian trade and industrial committee which open there on Saturday. The four-day meetings are expected to tackle various issues of bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

Egypt, PLO seeking to mend fences

CAIRO (R) — Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), estranged for the past two months, are trying to mend fences, an Egyptian minister said in remarks published Friday. "The two sides right now are trying to contain this passing crisis and to imprint political realism on their relations," Boutros Ghali, minister of state for external affairs, told the French-language daily Le Journal d'Egypte. Dr. Ghali said Egypt regarded the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians, but added, "Egypt does not stick to any formula on Palestinian representation. Its position is flexible, and it is ready to support any formula which would bring about agreement and lead to holding an international (Middle East) peace conference."

Peres: Time running out for peace

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Friday progress toward Middle East peace would be put off until 1989 unless action was taken soon because of elections next year in Israel and the United States. Mr. Peres, who favours a U.N.-sponsored Middle East peace conference, told armed forces radio: "If nothing happens before the end of the year or the start of next year, everything will be put off until 1989." The United States holds elections in November 1988, and the president who succeeds Ronald Reagan in January 1989 will need time to get organized, Mr. Peres said. "I view this as a long, worrisome and bothersome interval," he said. Israel is scheduled to hold elections in November next year.

Soviet minister arrives in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Vorontsov arrived Friday in Tehran to discuss the situation in the Gulf, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati as saying the talks would also cover expanding relations between the two nations. Tehran and Moscow last December signed an economic protocol covering trade, banking and transport.

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Thatcher sweeps back into power with 100-seat majority

LONDON (Agencies) — Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher swept back to power on Friday for five more years and went into the record books, crushing her opponents by a huge 100-seat parliamentary margin in Britain's general election.

"We have just had the most fantastic triumph, the third term with the same prime minister," a jubilant Thatcher said. The final official count of the 650 seats in the House of Commons after Thursday's vote gave the ruling Conservatives 375 seats, a net loss of 15 on their 1983 landslide, while Labour gained 21 seats to finish with 229.

The centrist Liberal-Social Democrat Alliance saw its hopes of breaking the stranglehold of two-party politics dashed as it

emerged with 22 seats. Other groups took 24 seats, leaving the Tories with an overall majority of 100, excluding the speaker. The complete results announced Friday in the general election showed that: (The number in parentheses is the number of seats won in the last general election in 1983): Conservative — 376 (397); Labour — 229 (209); SDP-Liberal Alliance — 22 (23); Scottish National — 3 (2); Plaid Cymru —

(Continued on page 3)

Arab team meets U.N. chief on Gulf war

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — A seven-member Arab League committee was scheduled to meet U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on Friday for talks on peaceful means to end the Iran-Iraq war and possible Security Council action on the issue.

Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, one of the members of the team, said in a statement upon his departure from Amman on Thursday that the delegation's meeting with Mr. Perez de Cuellar was part of intensified Arab efforts to rally international support for ending the almost seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war. He said the delegation would also contact members of the Security Council as part of its efforts.

Mr. Masri expressed hope that the committee's contacts at the U.N. would help narrow differences among the five permanent members of the Security Council and lead to the adoption of a resolution calling for a speedy end to the Gulf war.

At a press conference on Thursday, Mr. Perez de Cuellar said arms sales to both Iran and Iraq should cease and the U.N. offered the best means to end the conflict.

The U.N. chief appeared cool towards any idea of mounting a U.N. force in the Gulf, which has been suggested to keep shipping lanes open now and separate the belligerents later.

"That would mean a tremendous operation," he said. "It would be not only naval but air also, and I don't know whether member countries are prepared to finance such an enormous operation."

Even if current Security Council attempts to obtain a ceasefire between Iran and Iraq were to fail, he would persist with the peacemaking efforts he began before the council became involved, he said.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar claimed credit for the initiative now under way among the five permanent members of the council — the United States, the Soviet Union, France, Britain and China — to produce a consensus resolution.

"Member countries realised rather late that the U.N. is the best mechanism for solving peacefully international problems," he said. "Now the Security Council is involved it is at my own suggestion that they put their heads together."

He welcomed the statement of support for his own efforts and for council action adopted by the seven leading industrial democracies at their summit meeting in Venice this week, calling it "a tremendous source of satisfaction and encouragement."

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Reagan urges Gorbachev to tear down Berlin Wall

WEST BERLIN (Agencies) — President Ronald Reagan, surrounded by security after overnight riots, on Friday launched a dramatic challenge to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to tear down the Berlin Wall.

"General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace — if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe — if you seek liberalisation: come here to this gate," Mr. Reagan said. He spoke by the Berlin Wall near Brandenburg Gate, an historic symbol of German unity on the eastern side of the concrete barrier enclosing West Berlin.

"Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate. Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall," the president said. East German border guards watched the ceremony in the grounds of the old Reichstag parliament through binoculars from atop the massive columned Brandenburg Gate.

The Communist authorities condemned in advance Mr. Reagan's speech, saying it "would only make the wall higher." Mr. Reagan, making his second visit to West Berlin since entering the White House, said the West stood ready to work with the East to create a safer, freer world.

"And surely there is no better place than Berlin, the meeting

place of East and West, to make a start," he said.

Mr. Reagan, who came to West Berlin from the Venice economic summit, coupled his overture to ease tensions here with another hopeful assessment of prospects for a U.S.-Soviet arms accord.

Recalling that the deployment of U.S. Pershing-2 and cruise nuclear missiles prompted a brief Soviet boycott of arms negotiations and sparked demonstrations when he was last in Berlin in 1982, Mr. Reagan credited NATO solidarity with creating the present hopeful atmosphere.

Mr. Reagan was protected by a massive security operation involving more than 10,000 police — strained by violent clashes overnight which led to 77 arrests and 67 police injuries.

Police sealed off the troubled Kreuzberg district, where some 1,000 militant youths had retreated, and banned three rallies planned for on Friday.

In his speech at the Brandenburg Gate Chancellor Helmut Kohl thanked the United States for its support for West Berlin and stressed that West Germany was also willing to cooperate with the East bloc.

"But it hurts us that Berliners must celebrate the 750th anniversary of their city in separation," Dr. Kohl said.

(Continued on page 3)

NATO endorses 'double Zero' deal on missiles

REYKJAVIK (Agencies) — The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies, ending two months of debate, on Friday cleared the way for a superpower accord to rid East and West Europe of hundreds of land-based nuclear missiles and agreed to invite the Warsaw Pact to a new set of conventional arms control talks.

In a communique after two days of talks, the 16 NATO foreign ministers backed a proposal, first formulated by Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev in April, to remove nuclear missiles with a range of 500 to 1,500 kilometres from East and West Europe. In their communique, ministers of the 40-year-old NATO said they would review remaining arms control and disarmament issues.

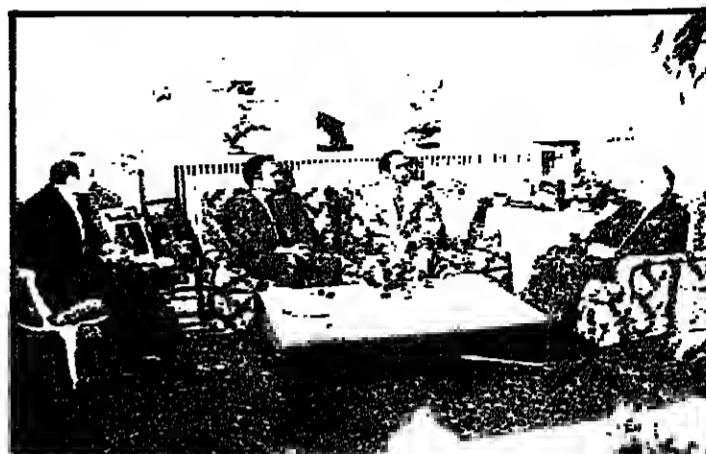
It added the allies "support the global and effectively verifiable elimination of all U.S. and Soviet" medium- and shorter-range nuclear missiles.

Under such an accord, which is expected to be signed later this year, the United States would remove its 316 cruise and Pershing II missiles deployed so far in four West European nations. Moscow would take out its 441 SS-20 missiles, along with 130 shorter-range arms in Eastern Europe.

NATO allies urged to drop its demand that it retain 100 SS-20



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and his Syrian counterpart Dr. Abdul Raouf Al Kasm during a visit they paid to the proposed site for a dam across the River Yarmouk on Friday (photo on left). His



Majesty King Hussein held talks with Dr. Kasm on Thursday in a meeting attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Mr. Rifai (Petra photos)

Rifai and Kasm visit proposed dam site

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and visiting Syrian Premier Abdul Raouf Al Kasm on Friday visited the proposed site for Maqarun Dam across the River Yarmouk.

Dr. Kasm was briefed on the main goals behind building the dam by Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) President Munther Haddadin. The dam will provide a reservoir for 486-million cubic metres of water which would be used both for drinking and irrigation.

The two premiers were accompanied on the visit by Transport Minister Ahmad Dakhqan, Interior Minister Rajai Dajani, Jordan's Ambassador to Syria Ali Khreis and a Syrian delegation accompanying Dr. Kasm.

Dr. Kasm, who arrived in Amman on Wednesday for talks with Mr. Rifai and other government

leaders, was received in audience by His Majesty King Hussein at Al Nadwa Palace on Thursday in the presence of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Mr. Rifai and Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the two sides had a comprehensive review of the latest developments in the Arab region and issues of common concern to Jordan and Syria. The meeting was also attended by Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahhab Al Majali as well as ministers of industry and trade, transport, interior and Ambassador Khreis.

The Syrian delegation accompanying Dr. Kasm attended the meeting and the two sides were guests at a luncheon hosted by King Hussein.

Dr. Kasm and Mr. Rifai held talks at the Prime Ministry on Thursday and reviewed Syrian-Jordanian cooperation in the fields of trade, agriculture, industry, planning, supply, communications, electricity, education, higher education, culture, tourism and archaeology, Petra said.

The work of joint ventures like the Jordanian-Syrian Land Transport Company, the Industrial Free Zone and the Syrian-Jordanian Bank was also reviewed at the meeting, Petra said. The agency said that both sides expressed satisfaction with the development of bilateral cooperation in these fields and stressed the need of bolstering such cooperation to benefit the peoples of both countries.

The meeting was attended by

senior officials from both sides. Also on Friday Mr. Rifai and Dr. Kasm and the accompanying delegation visited the Deir Alla area. Dr. Haddadin briefed them on the establishment and development of the JVA and its role in developing the Jordan Valley area.

Dr. Haddadin highlighted the importance of the Yarmouk River for irrigated agriculture in the Jordan Valley. Dr. Haddadin also referred to a Jordanian-Syrian agreement, concluded in 1953 to construct the Maqarun Dam. Dr. Kasm expressed full understanding of the significance and importance of the project, and said he would arrange for overcoming any difficulties which might face the implementation of the project.

Israelis jail two more Arabs without trial

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli occupation authorities on Friday ordered a 25-year-old Palestinian resident of the occupied West Bank held for six months without trial on suspicion he helped organise a radical Palestinian group. An army spokesman said Nidal Fahmi Mohammad Faronkh of the Hebron area was believed to be a regional organiser for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

He said about 70 residents of the West Bank or occupied Gaza Strip were being held without trial under laws dating back to Britain's mandate over Palestine. On Thursday, the Israeli army also ordered a 16-year-old resident of the Dheisheh camp, Mohammad Issa, detained for three months without trial.

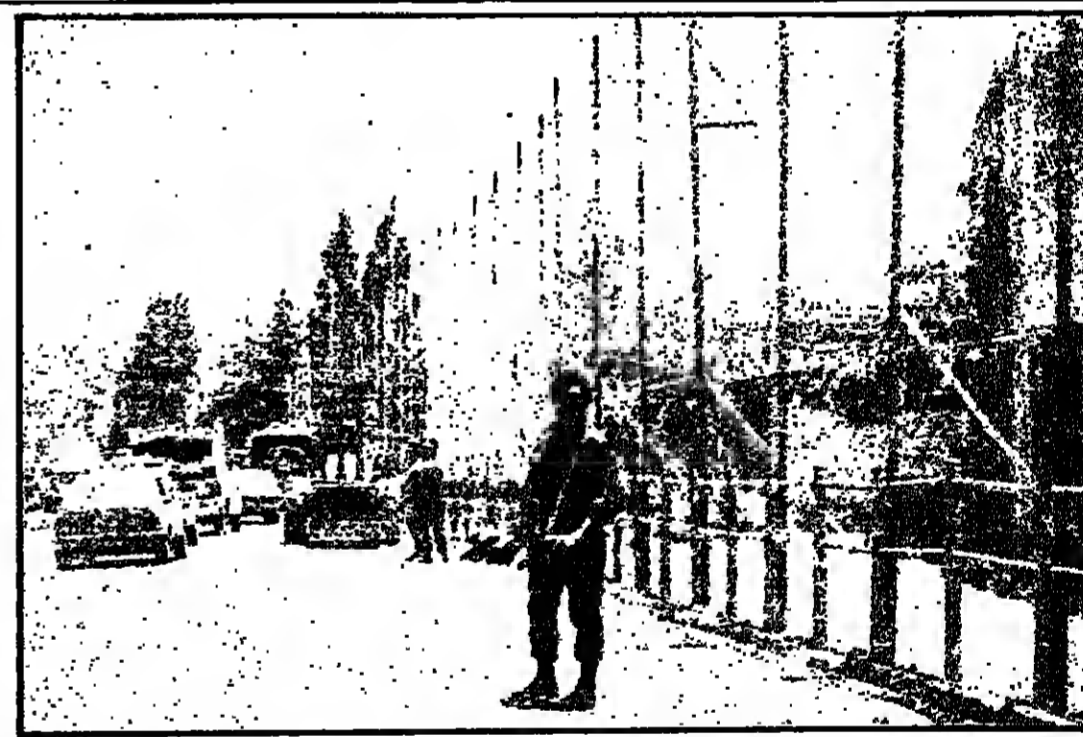
Mr. Issa was also charged with carrying out subversive activities on behalf of the PFLP. In another development, Jewish settlers from the occupied West Bank were charged on Friday with taking part in a riot at the Dheisheh camp last week. Dozens of settlers went on a rampage at Dheisheh after Palestinians there stoned a passing Israeli vehicle.

Police asked that six defendants remain in jail throughout court proceedings on grounds they might stage a new raid. They face charges of firing at inhabited buildings, disobeying army orders and attacking soldiers. A curfew was placed on Dheisheh after stones were thrown at troops the night after the settlers' riot, believing a new raid was afoot.

Before lifting the curfew on Thursday, the Israeli army extended a high wire mesh fence separating the camp from the adjacent main Jerusalem-to-Hebron road. A new army position was set up. In another development, an Israeli border policeman was convicted of bashing the head of a seven-year-old Palestinian boy against the Western Wall of Jerusalem, a newspaper said Thursday.

Yona Zochut, 24, was found guilty of grabbing Awni Mohammad Issam at the Mougrabi Gate three weeks ago and dragging him toward the nearby wall, the newspaper Hadasot reported. Zochut then bashed Issam's

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The five-metre-high fence erected on Thursday around the Dheisheh camp

Israelis who met PLO team in Hungary face prosecution

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Justice Minister Avraham Shinar said Friday he expected Israeli leftists who met senior officials of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Hungary to face prosecution on their return home.

After a three-hour meeting on Thursday in Budapest, Israeli leftist member of parliament Charlie Biton embraced senior PLO official Mahmoud Abbas and supported the creation of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel.

"In Israel they kill our children ... and already abroad they are showering hugs and kisses on parliamentarian Charlie Biton," Mr. Shinar told Israel Radio. He said he expected police would draft a complaint against the Israelis.

Mr. Biton, of Israel's Communist Party, said his group of 15 leftists hoped to further Middle East peace efforts even if they faced prosecution for contravening an Israeli law adopted last August barring contacts with "terrorist organisations."

Violators face up to three years in prison. Four leftists who met PLO members in Romania last year face trial under the new law next week. The Budapest meeting on Thursday lasted three hours. It included eight PLO delegates and 21 Israelis.

"The participants are of very different political opinions but all hold a common view..." Mr. Biton said in a declaration after the talks at the Budapest conven-

Bokassa sentenced to death

BANGUI (Agencies) — Former Emperor Bokassa was sentenced to death Friday on charges of murder, arbitrary arrest and embezzlement of public funds. Bokassa, 66, stood impassively as Judge Edouard Frank began reading the judgement and sentence at the end of the six-month-long trial, but later was allowed to sit down when he showed signs of fatigue.

The three judges and six jurors acquitted Bokassa of several other charges, including cannibalism, procuring human bodies for cannibalistic purposes and stealing the crown jewels used at his 1977 coronation.

Previous death sentences in the Central African Republic have been carried out by firing squad, but the method of execution was not specified in Bokassa's verdict. Government officials and foreign diplomats say President Andre Kolingba is likely to commute the sentence to life imprisonment.

The verdict ended retrial of the former French army captain turned self-proclaimed emperor, who flew home unexpectedly from exile late last year although he had already been sentenced to death in his absence.

Court President Edouard Frank said executions at Bangui's notorious Ngaragba prison during Bokassa's rule from 1965 to 1979 were carried out by people acting on his instructions.

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White House caves in to Congress over arms sales to Saudi Arabia

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan's swift capitulation to Congress in withdrawing a proposed arms sale to Saudi Arabia has dealt another blow to an American Middle East policy still reeling from the Iran-contra scandal.

In a surprise departure from Mr. Reagan's fight-to-the-finish strategy in earlier battles with Congress over arms sales to Arab states, the administration Thursday withdrew a planned sale of 1,600 advanced Maverick missiles worth \$360 million shortly before a key Senate panel was to vote on killing it.

"The administration has taken the decision to withdraw the Maverick sale to Saudi Arabia at this time due to the obvious strong interest and concern expressed by Congress," State Department official Edward Fox said in a brief appearance Thursday before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

But Mr. Fox said the administration hoped to consult further with Congress to "reach an accommodation" and make the sale of the air-to-ground, anti-aircraft missiles at a later date.

Congressional opponents of the sale said the White House could not have picked a worse

time to decide to sell arms to Saudi Arabia — on the heels of last month's Iraqi attack on the U.S. frigate Stark in the Gulf and amid concern over Washington's plan to protect Kuwaiti ships there.

"It came at a time when the whole Gulf issue is really aflame," Rep. Larry Smith, a Florida Democrat and leading House of Representatives opponent of the sale, said Thursday.

Some legislators were angered at Saudi Arabia's failure to respond quickly to a U.S. request to force down the Iraqi jet that attacked the Stark and allow American planes to use Saudi bases in their mission to protect shipping in the Gulf.

"The Saudis in fact refused us base rights, refused to give us anything that we could call cooperation in terms of protection of the Gulf and of course ... refused to do anything of substance with reference to the attack on the Stark," Mr. Smith told reporters.

Other lawmakers said the Gulf situation had contributed to the speed with which the Senate mustered the 67 votes needed to kill the sale and insure a veto override but they said it would have been blocked anyway due to other objections to Saudi policies.

"I think there is widespread unease in the Congress and in the country over administration policies in the Middle East and doubts about the wisdom of flagging those ships undoubtedly increased the willingness to take on the administration," Sen. Alan Cranston, a California Democrat and leading Senate opponent of arms sales to Arab states, told reporters Thursday.

Some legislators said the timing of the sale could be linked to administration's attempts to recover credibility lost with its Middle East allies over the Iran-contra affair.

Many Arab nations were stunned by revelations last November that Mr. Reagan had covertly been selling arms to Iran in direct contradiction to his stated policy of neutrality in the Iran-Iraq war and against arms sales to nations on the U.S. list of states supporting terrorism.

Israelis block housing repairs for Gaza refugees

BUREAU REFUGEE CAMP, Gaza Strip (R) — United Nations relief officials say Israel is blocking a programme to carry out vital repairs to shelters for the most destitute Palestinian refugees in the occupied Gaza Strip.

The \$150,000 project, funded largely by The Netherlands, was to renew the rickety refugee camp homes of some 250 of the poorest families in this overcrowded coastal strip, according to Angela Williams, deputy director for Gaza of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian Refugees.

The Israeli occupation authorities want the money spent instead on assisting those refugees who can afford to move out of the teeming camps and build a home of their own in a new government housing project, she said.

The U.N. programme is designed to assist only the poorest families, where there is no wage-earner because of disease, disablement or unemployment.

It is aimed at extending the life of cramped shelters built in the early 1950s by raising low walls, laying concrete floors, replacing leaky tiled roofs and renewing doors and windows.

"Last year, the Israelis began to insist for the first time that we coordinate all repairs with them. We submitted a list in February and, after a three-month wait, were told in May that approval had been refused and we would not be allowed to go ahead with any repairs at all," Williams told Reuters.

Williams said UNRWA could only help the most destitute refugees because of lack of funds. Most refugee families have to repair their own homes.

Israeli policy is to encourage the refugees to leave the camps and build homes in several areas where they are given state land on a 99-year lease.

Some 40,000 Palestinians have moved into the housing projects since they began in the early 1970s, but 270,000 still live in the camps and the total population of the Gaza Strip has increased faster than the number of people moving into the government areas.

U.N. officials say they support any effort to give refugees better housing, but they criticise Israel's insistence that when a family moves out of the camps into a government housing project their shelter must be demolished.

Retaining the shelters would help ease overcrowding in the camps, Williams said.

Another complaint is that the Israelis have barred the U.N. from repairing any homes in areas of the refugee camps which adjoin the new housing projects.

Soviets urge cooperation to protect Gulf shipping

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda said Friday current U.S. policy was raising tension in the Gulf and called on all countries using Gulf waters to cooperate to protect sea lanes.

Pravda said comments by U.S. military officials that Washington could launch a pre-emptive strike on Iranian missiles to protect American shipping was a misplaced attempt to show U.S. military muscle after the Iran arms sales fiasco.

It noted the dependence of some Western countries on Gulf oil, and said the Soviet Union also had legitimate interests in the region including economic, trade and political ties with countries close to its borders.

"As concerns security of navigation, this problem can be decided from various sides without resorting to political threats and military force," Pravda said.

"All countries using the Gulf could make joint efforts in search of guarantees for freedom of shipping in the Indian Ocean as a whole."

"The Soviet Union proposes, for example, that multilateral talks be begun to work out guarantees for the security of sea lanes in all waters of the ocean, including the Gulf."

Concern over the safety of Gulf navigation flared after an Iraqi missile attack on the U.S. warship Stark last month. The United States has since been considering how to build up its military presence in the area.

The Soviet Union, which has three small warships in the Gulf, has said it does not plan to add to its force but has warned that any Iranian attack on Soviet ships in the region will bring a forceful and violent response.

One of three Soviet tankers chartered by Kuwait to deter Iranian attacks on its ships was damaged by a mine in the northern Gulf last month.

Kuwait also plans to sail half its 22-tanker fleet under the American flag to gain U.S. protection in the waterway.

In Kuwait, Al Anbaa newspaper quoted the Soviet ambassador to Jordan, Alexander Zinebich, as saying in an interview in Amman

that Moscow would exert every effort to end the war.

He said the Soviet Union did not want the war to spread to other Gulf states, but added that Moscow would not interfere militarily if it escalated.

Reagan: Allies back U.S. on Gulf

U.S. President Ronald Reagan said Thursday allied leaders at the seven-nation summit in Venice were fully behind U.S. efforts to keep the Gulf open to shipping and now knew Washington did not seek a widening of the Iran-Iraq war.

Mr. Reagan also said he believed the chances of a meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and reduction of superpower nuclear arms were increasing, but the timing of a U.S.-Soviet summit was up to Moscow.

The president was addressing a news conference following the annual summit of leaders of the seven major industrial democracies. The gathering had been seen as a test of Mr. Reagan's stature following the Iran arms scandal.

The news conference, held under warm sunshine in the garden of the Cipriani Hotel, was marked by questions about Mr. Reagan's role in the scandal, which has created the biggest crisis of his presidency.

But the president minimised the effect of secret U.S. arms sales to Iran on his campaign at the Venice summit for a united front over the Gulf.

Prior to the summit, Washington had given mixed signals about what it expected from the allies in the way of support to keep Gulf sea lanes open and guard against attacks on shipping.

A summit communiqué merely called for international effort to end the Iran-Iraq war and reaffirmed the principle of free navigation in the Gulf.

"We (the summit leaders) spoke of the need for having a kind of single approach to maintaining the international waters there as international waters and so forth," Mr. Reagan said.

"And we're gratified completely with the response."

"I think it has been excellent that there was no criticism from

any of our allies about this."

Mr. Reagan was asked about allied confusion on the U.S. role in the Gulf, where the U.S. administration has agreed to give American navy protection to 11 Kuwaiti oil tankers threatened by attack from Iran.

"I don't think they feel that way after they've had a chance to talk to me and hear what I'm saying about it," he said.

He said all seven nations had a stake in maintaining the free flow of oil in the Gulf and added: "Also, I think they are assured now that we're not there to ... provoke some kind of increased hostility. We are there to deter that very thing."

In response to a question, he said he had never regarded the Soviet Union as a co-guarantor of freedom of navigation in the Gulf, although Moscow too had a stake in freedom of navigation.

Reagan administration officials defended their Gulf policy to a sceptical Congress Thursday but failed to stem escalating opposition and fear that U.S. forces could be dragged into war.

Legislators opposed to the plan to use U.S. forces to protect Kuwaiti oil tankers in the Gulf levelled new attacks on U.S. allies and accused the administration of seeking a confrontation with Iran.

Legislators — Democrats and Republicans alike — criticised what they say is the administration's failure to win more support from allies in Western Europe and Japan on keeping the waterway open.

Some legislators criticised a statement issued at the just-completed Venice summit.

Echoing a statement made Wednesday by Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger, Under Secretary of State Michael Armacost and Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy Thursday defended the allies and called the statement substantive.

"We welcome the demonstration of allied support," Mr. Murphy told the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee.

But legislators did not accept his defence of the allies.

"Standing by friends is a two-

way street," said Congressman

bill Nichols. "What friends are standing by us?"

Congressmen also attacked the administration's motives for the operation, charging it was more concerned with keeping the Soviet Union out of the Gulf than with keeping the waterway open.

Mr. Murphy and Mr. Armacost denied the administration was using the Kuwaiti tanker operation — which they said could last until the Iran-Iraq war ends — to provoke Tehran into an attack.

"It is not intended as a provocation to Iran — here's the ship, knock it off and we'll blast you," said Mr. Murphy.

GCC rejects intervention

The United Arab Emirates told permanent members of the U.N. Security Council Thursday that the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) rejected foreign intervention in the Gulf region, the official Emirates News Agency WAM reported.

It said the envoys of Britain, China, France, The Soviet Union and the United States, were summoned to the UAE Foreign Ministry and briefed on the GCC's policy.

Said Sa'ed Sa'ed, director of the ministry's GCC Affairs Department, met the envoys separately and told WAM that he conveyed the GCC's rejection of attempts to use economic cooperation as a pretext for a foreign presence in the region. He did not elaborate.

He said he acted in accordance with a decision by the GCC ministerial council in Jeddah last week. The UAE is current chairman of the GCC, which also includes Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

UAE not to grant facilities to U.S. fleet

United Arab Emirates Oil Minister Mana Sa'ed Obeida was quoted in Kuwait Thursday as excluding granting naval facilities to the United States in his Gulf country.

He also expressed the hope that developments in the Gulf would not force other countries to follow Kuwait's example to reflag their oil tankers.

Iran 'will hit' warships if U.S. attacks islands

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — An Iranian Revolutionary Guards leader has boasted that his fast gunboats could destroy any American warship that tried to attack islands off his nation's coast.

Guards Deputy Commander Alireza Afshar also said American claims that they could destroy Iran's Chinese-made land-to-ship missiles installed at the vital Strait of Hormuz were a "bluff."

Afshar, quoted by the state-run Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) in a dispatch monitored in Nicosia, said his gunboats could destroy the intruding warships even from a long distance.

"If the Americans try to land forces on Iranian and Gulf is-

lands, and in Iranian bases, the navy of the corps... will destroy all their facilities with full force by using missile systems," he was quoted as saying in another report, on Tehran Radio.

The Revolutionary Guards Corps, made up of dedicated followers of revolutionary patriarch Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, operates its gunboats from small Iranian-held islands.

In the wake of the May 17 Iraqi missile attack on the frigate USS Stark, the United States is planning to beef up its force in the Gulf and has warned of the danger posed by Iran's Silkworm missiles to ships in the Hormuz, a bottleneck at the entrance of the Gulf.

PSP delivers bomb suspects to Syrians

BEIRUT (R) — The Druze-led Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militia has handed over to Syrian authorities 11 PSP members accused of complicity in a spate of bomb blasts in west Beirut, militia sources said Friday.

The sources told Reuters the PSP's former security chief in west Beirut, Jamal Kararah, whose nom de guerre is Abu Hattum, was among those turned over to the Syrians.

Two minor blasts jarred west Beirut Thursday night, raising to 137 the number of nuisance explosions there since 7,000 Syrian troops arrived in February to halt bloody street battles.

The blasts, usually caused by sticks of dynamite tossed into street-corner garbage heaps, have been interpreted as a campaign to discredit Syria's drive to impose order in the Muslim sector.

The militia sources said the hand-over of PSP members was an effort by PSP leader Walid Junblut to improve his ties with Syria.

Beirut's independent An Nahar newspaper, citing a source close to Damascus, said Friday the PSP had already killed several "suspect elements" in connection with the bombings.

U.K. considers retaliation after new Iranian expulsions

LONDON (R) — Britain considered further retaliation Friday after Iran in a tit-for-tat row between the two nations expelled four more British diplomats.

British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe Thursday called Tehran's latest move in the two-week-old conflict "a totally unjustified reaction." The number of British diplomats in Iran has been reduced by nine, with seven Iranians being ordered out of Britain.

Speaking on British television from Reykjavik, where he attended a NATO meeting, Mr. Howe said the expulsions were all the more regrettable as his govern-

ment had "tried to give every opportunity to put our relations on a sensible, long term basis."

Mr. Howe was expected to discuss a wide range of possible counter-measures with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Friday, including diplomatic sanctions, a Foreign Office spokesman said.

But Iran warned the strained ties could further deteriorate and their trade could be affected.

Iran's chief envoy in Britain said his country could not be blamed for the row, which started with the arrest of an Iranian consular official in the North England city of Manchester.

U.S. denies W. Germany rejected Hamadei extradition

VENICE (R) — President Reagan has said he and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl had agreed that an Arab accused in a 1985 hijacking should be tried for murder and hijacking either in West Germany or the United States.

Mr. Reagan told a news conference that Mr. Kohl had not rejected Washington's request that Mohammed Ali Hamadei, now held in West Germany, be extradited to the United States.

The Reagan administration formally requested his extradition five months ago. He faces U.S. charges in the hijacking of a

Trans World Airlines (TWA) plane in which a U.S. navy diver was killed.

Mr. Reagan said West Germany had not decided where Hamadei should be tried, adding: "The only question that remains is will Hamadei be tried for murder and hijacking in the United States or will he be tried for murder and hijacking in West Germany."

"Now there has been no decision made yet as to whether there will be extradition or not," Mr. Reagan said. "But either way, he is going to be tried for murder in that hijacking."

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 75111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:50 Programme Review
16:00 Tim and Jerry
16:20 Children programme
16:40 Arabic series
17:10 Chucky
17:40 Programme on Nutrition
19:10 Local programme
19:20 Programme on Society
19:30 News in Arabic
20:00 Documentary on Jerusalem
21:10 Arabic series
22:00 Programme review
22:30 Arabic play
23:00 News Summary in Arabic
23:10 Play out.

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Les nouveaux mondes (feature film)
19:00 News in French
19:15 La force du destin
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Science World
20:00 News in Arabic
20:10 Music Box
21:10 Dad's Army
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film.

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & 104.5 MHz, FM

Tel: 75111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsday
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Morning Show Contd.
10:00 25 Years of Rock
10:30 News Summary
11:00 The deciders
12:00 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
13:30 Pop Session contd.
14:00 News Bulletin
14:15 Jordan Weekly
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
17:00 Special Feature
17:30 Music
18:00 News Summary
18:30 Top Twenty
19:00 Newsday
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Rock Profile
20:30 Men from the Ministry

BBC WORLD SERVICE

630, 720, 123 KHz

PROGRAMME ONE

07:00 Newsday 07:30 Here's Humph
07:45 Reflections 07:50 Financial News
08:00 World News 08:05 24 Hours
08:10 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10
08:20 News Summary 08:20 Today
08:35 The World Today 08:30 Newsday
08:40 Meridian 08:40 World News
08:45 24 Hours News Summary 08:30
08:50 World News 08:50 Newsday UK
09:00 World News 09:00 Newsday UK
11:00 World News 11:00 Newsday UK
11:15 A Job's Guard Show 12:00 World
News 12:00 British Press Review 12:15
The World Today 12:30 Financial
News 12:45 World News 12:50 News
Summary: Trapping the Cobra 13:45
Letter from America 14:00 About Britain
14:15 Sports World 14:30 Meridian
15:00 Radio Newsday 15:15 Music for
the Sun King 15:45 Sports Roundup
16:00 World News 16:30 24 Hours
News Summary 16:30 Newsday UK
16:45 Saturday Special 17:00 News
Summary, Saturday Special 17:30
Saturday Special 18:00 Radio Newsday
18:15 Saturday Special 19:00 World
News 19:00 News Summary, Saturday
Special 20:00 News Summary, Saturday
Special 20:45 Sports Roundup
21:00 Newsday 21:30 Trapping the
Cobra 22:00 News Summary
22:30 World News 22:30 Jazz for
the Aspiring 24:00 News Summary: Per-
sona 04:00 1985 German Award
Festivities 06:30 People and Politics 01:00
World News 02:30 Anything Goes

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260 & SW 720, 955, 1170, 1195 and 1510 KHz

06:00 News 06:10 VOA Morning 06:30
News 07:10 VOA Morning 08:00 News
08:10 VOA Morning 09:00 News 09:10
VOA Morning 10:00 News 10:10
VOA Morning 10:30 Press Conference, USA
19:00 News 19:10 American View-
points 19:30 Special English News &
Features 20:00 News 20:10 Weekend
21:00 News 21:10 Closeup 21:30 Special
English News & Features 22:00
News 22:10 American Viewpoints
22:30 Press Conference, USA 23:00
News 23:10 Music USA Jazz 23:55
Editorial 24:00 News 00:10 Weekend

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An art exhibition by Lebanese artist Jan Turk at the Petra Bank Gallery - Wadi Saqra.
* An exhibition of Arab calligraphy by Nidal Tahari at the Jordanian plastic artists association (until June 30).

CINEMA

* "Pierrot le Fou" at 8:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6612047
American Centre .. 64371
American Centre library .. 641531
British Council .. 6261478
French Cultural Centre .. 637049
Goethe Institute .. 641903
Soviet Cultural Centre .. 642049
Spanish Cultural Centre .. 637777
Turkish Cultural Centre .. 661519
Hussein Youth City .. 661816
Y.W.C.A. .. 641793
A.M.U. .. 637111
Amman Municipal Library .. 637111
Univ. of Jordan Library .. 843555

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Hays Arts Centre. Open all week 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. & 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Closed on Friday.
Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also movies from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Friday) and official holidays. H.H.H. a.m. to 4:00 p.m., closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and

SCULPTURES BY CONTEMPORARY ISLAMIC ARTISTS FROM MOST OF THE MUSLIM COUNTRIES AND A COLLECTION OF PAINTINGS BY 19TH CENTURY ORIENTALIST ARTISTS. MOUNTAIN, JABAL LUBD, OPENING HOURS: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.

Mariyeh's Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours: 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 662241.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1:30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel. 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1:30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel. 2:00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 816334, 817534.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman. Tel. 624581.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lubd. Tel. 624581.
De La Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein. Tel. 661757.
Terrasanta Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lubd. Tel. 624581.
Beyt al-Salam Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. Tel. 775341.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Ashrafieh. Tel. 623541.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 775341.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. Tel. 771331.
Amman International Church (inter-denominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmashim. Tel. 677534.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Jabal Amman. 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Smir). Tel. 811265.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (05) 532485, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

04:15 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
10:15 Athens (RJ)
10:15 Cairo (RJ)
10:30 Damascus (RJ)
10:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
10:30 Sana'a, Jeddah (RJ)
10:50 Dhahran (RJ)
10:50 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
12:30 Beirut, Cairo (RJ)
13:35 New York, Vienna (RJ)
18:45 Athens (RJ)
19:05 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
19:15 Istanbul (RJ)
20:40 Tripoli (RJ)
00:55 Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

02:45 Belgrade, Istanbul (JU)
13:20 Cairo (MS)
13:20 Sharjah, Bahrain (GF)
14:35 Kuwait (KU)
15:45 Tripoli (LH)
16:10 Riyadh (SV)
17:30 Baghdad (IA)
18:30 Paris, Damascus (AF)
19:25 Beirut (ME)
20:10 Rome (AZ)
00:25 Frankfurt (LH)

DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

08:00 Athens (RJ)
09:00 Moscow (RJ)
11:45 Tripoli (RJ)
12:00 Vienna, New York (RJ)
12:30 Athens (RJ)
12:30 Paris (RJ)
12:45 Rome, Madrid (RJ)
12:55 Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
13:00 London (RJ

Iraqi minister to discuss joint transport company

AMMAN (J.T.) — Iraqi Minister of Transport and Communications Mohammad Hamzeh Al Zubeidi today opens talks with Minister of Transport Ahmad Dakhan to discuss Jordanian-Iraqi cooperation in transport fields.

The Iraqi minister will on Sunday co-chair the general assembly meeting of the Iraq-Jordan Land Transport Company, according to a spokesman for the Iraqi embassy in Amman.

Mr. Zubeidi who arrived in Amman on Thursday evening is scheduled also to meet with Minister of Communications Mubhammad Al Hussein and talks are expected to focus on bilateral cooperation in communications fields.

On Sunday, the Iraqi minister

is scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, the spokesman said.

The Iraqi minister, who is accompanied by a two member delegation representing the Iraqi Ministry of Transport and the Iraqi side in the joint company, made a statement upon arrival here paying tribute to Jordan and His Majesty King Hussein for their continued support for the Iraqi people in the face of Iranian aggression.

On Friday, Mr. Zubeidi and his accompanying delegation visited the Red Sea area where they saw its natural and tourist attractions. They also toured the historical city of Jerash, and were briefed on its historical and cultural significance.

Jordan, UNRWA to revive accord on health services to refugees

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine refugees and Jordan are to revive an agreement on cooperation in providing health services to the Palestinian refugees in the Kingdom, according to a Health Ministry statement in Amman.

It said that a delegation from the Vienna-based UNRWA will arrive in Amman in the coming month to discuss with the Health Ministry matters related to this question.

The statement was made following a visit by Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh to the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs where he met with Minister Marwan Daudin to discuss health affairs for the refugees and UNRWA's role in this field.

An agreement between UNRWA and the Health Ministry for providing health services to the refugees in Jordan has been defunct since 1980; the two sides will revive it after arriving at a new accord, Dr. Hamzeh said at the meeting held Thursday.

He said that under the previous agreement, UNRWA paid JD 106,000 to the Health Ministry annually to provide health services to the refugees in the country. UNRWA this year expressed a willingness to pay JD 300,000 annually for ensuring medical



Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh (centre) meets with Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Daudin (to Mr. Hamzeh's right) to discuss reviving an agreement between UNRWA and Jordan on providing health care to the Palestinian refugees (Petra photo)

treatment to the refugees at the Health Ministry's hospitals and health centres, Dr. Hamzeh pointed out.

He said that UNRWA has suggested that the Health Ministry provide comprehensive health services to the estimated 700,000 refugees in Jordan.

Following the meeting, Dr. Hamzeh said that agreement has been reached for the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs to assign a limited number of beds in private owned hospitals on the

Ministerial committee prepares for 47th CAEU conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — The ministerial committee of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) met Friday at the Regency Palace Hotel to review the accomplishments and activities of the CAEU and to prepare for the upcoming 47th general ministerial conference to be held in Amman this week. The conference will be attended by finance and trade ministers of the Arab League countries.

The ministerial committee preparing for the general conference is being chaired by Iraqi Finance Minister Hisham Hassan Tawfiq, who arrived in Amman on Thursday, and involves delegates from Jordan, Syria, Palestine, Libya, North Yemen, and Iraq.

The ministerial committee is discussing the implementation of the resolutions passed at the last general conference and will pass its study and recommendations on to the upcoming general conference.

Arab debts, economic integration

Efforts to reduce Arab foreign debts and to integrate the econo-

mies of Arab states are expected to be the key subjects at the CAEU meetings, according to a report by Reuters news agency.

On the eve of the ministerial committee meeting, the CAEU's secretary general, Mahdi Al Obeidi was quoted as saying that the meeting was the first to point out the dangers of the indebtedness of Arab states.

Total Arab foreign debts were now estimated to total between \$120 and \$150 billion. Arab funding was needed to repay the debts and to extend loan on easier terms to those Arab states which needed them, he said.

Obeidi said the council would also review proposals for achiev-

ing the long-sought goal of comprehensive economic integration. The 13-member council was established in 1957 and began work in 1964. It has an annual budget of about \$2 million but some states have been late in paying their contributions, Obeidi said.

He said joint Arab companies, set up by the council during the 1970s oil boom, had not yet started to pay proper dividends. The companies were also intended to act as centres for expert advice in their fields.

They included the Arab Mining Company, based in Amman, the Arab Company for Drug Industries and Medical Appliances, also based in Amman, the Arab Company for Animal Wealth, based in Damascus, and the Arab Company for Industrial Development, based in Baghdad.

Obeidi said one step towards economic integration was taken in 1971 when Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Mauritania, North Yemen and Syria formed a Common Arab Market exempting their exports from all duties.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Telephone service disrupted

AMMAN (J.T.) — All telephone lines beginning with number 6 went out of order on Friday evening, until late into the night. The Jordan Times was unable to make any contacts with the telecommunications officials to ask about the reason for this unusual disruption.

Panel on Arab social security to be held

AMMAN (Petra) — A pan-Arab seminar on application of social security systems in the Arab World starts here today at the Social Security Corporation (SSC). The five-day seminar, organised by the SSC in cooperation with the Khartoum-based Social Security Centre, will be officially inaugurated by SSC Director General Mahdi Al Farhan. Taking part in the seminar will be representatives for 11 Arab states.

Himoud to open agriculture seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Marwan Al Himoud today opens a three-day seminar on food and agricultural marketing, which is organised by the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development in cooperation with the World Bank's Economic Development Institute. The seminar will tackle agricultural issues and studies related to agricultural marketing, food security in the Arab World, and problems that impede marketing.

University of Jordan to hold graduation

AMMAN (Petra) — Under Royal Patronage, the 22nd batch of the University of Jordan students will be graduated on Sunday at the Amman Sports City Stadium. The new batch includes 2,650 students of whom 2,252 have completed requirements for a B.A. degree, while 1157 have completed requirements of the Master's Degree and 43 have completed requirements for a diploma, and 185 others have completed requirements of the vocational training diploma.

Thatcher sweeps back into power

(Continued from page 1)

are the official Unionist (Protestant), Democratic Unionist (Protestant), Popular Unionist (Protestant), Social Democratic and Labour (Catholic) and Sinn Féin (political wing of the Irish Republican Army).

Labour's fiery leader Neil Kinnock, though stunned by the size of the Tory victory after he had confidently predicted a close contest, said: "Yesterday was merely the end of the first half."

"Today is the first day of the rest of our lives and with our guts and determination we shall earn our victory."

The win gave Mrs. Thatcher a comfortable parliamentary majority to pursue her mission of demolishing socialism and updating Britain's nuclear arsenal. "We have got it because we managed to convince people the things we were doing were right," Mrs. Thatcher, the first British leader in 161 years to win three consecutive terms, said.

"We're going to go, we haven't a lot of time to sit around," the 61-year-old Conservative leader said in a separate radio interview.

Mr. Kinnock called his defeat "a vote for maintaining division in our country" (See page 4).

About 75 per cent of Britain's 43.2 million eligible voters cast ballots, producing some striking changes. At least four black and Asian Labour candidates won, putting non-whites into parliament for the first time since 1929 (See page 8).

"It's a great moment for black people," declared Bernie Grant, Labour's victorious black candidate in London's Tottenham district.

Arab team meets U.N. chief

(Continued from page 1)

On the question of arms supplies to the belligerents, he said: "It would be desirable that neither side receives military weapons and that is something which I think everybody who is interested in a solution of the problem would like."

But he added that he did not know whether the resolution being drafted by the permanent members would treat an arms ban as preventative or punitive. In the former case, he said, it should apply to both sides, but in the latter to the side that refused a

Israelis face prosecution

(Continued from page 1)

"these traitorous meetings."

As reported by the state-run Hungarian news agency MTI, the Israelis also called on the PLO to recognise the right to existence of the Israeli state.

At the same time, they stressed that the setting up of a Palestinian state in the occupied Arab territories was "the sole genuine guarantee for the peaceful existence of Israel."

According to the report, the Israeli peace activists demanded that Israel withdraw from all occupied Arab territories and raised the idea of establishing a "provisionally demilitarised" Palestinian state as an intermediate solution to the conflict.

One unnamed Israeli delegate said this would help convince the Israeli public of the possibility of peaceful coexistence, MTI reported.

"Mr. Abbas told the meeting he 'highly appreciates the courage of the Israeli delegation members'."

Israelis jail 2 more Arabs

(Continued from page 1)

head against one of the wall's huge rectangular rocks, opening a hole the size of a quarter in the boy's forehead.

Siniora reconsidering council candidacy

In another development, a Palestinian newspaper editor who was severely criticised by Arab leaders for announcing plans to run for Jerusalem city council said Thursday he was reconsidering his position.

Hanna Siniora said he would seek international legal advice on whether his candidacy could prejudice Arab rights to the Holy City.

Mr. Siniora's decision came one day after the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) expressed strong opposition to his candidacy. Palestinian leaders have said that such participation would imply recognition of Israeli sovereignty over the city.

9 killed, 200 injured in traffic accidents last week

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of nine people were killed and 200 others injured in road accidents that occurred in the Kingdom in the past week, according to a Public Security Department (PSD) statement.

It said that out of the 293 accidents which occurred in the

Jordan, Soviet Union to mark friendship day

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society, led by member of the Upper House of Parliament, Bahjat Talhoumi, is on its way to Moscow to take part in festivals in the Soviet Union marking the anniversary of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Day.

During the visit, the delegation will sign an agreement on cultural cooperation for 1987-88 and will hold meetings with members of the Supreme Soviet to discuss issues of concern to the Jordanian and Soviet people.

Mr. Talhoumi and his delegation stopped over in Damascus Thursday where they met with Mr. Mahmoud Al Zou'bi, speaker of the Syrian People's Council. They reviewed a number of issues of common concern and those related to the Arab Parliamentarian Union of which Syria and Jordan are members.

Haj Hassan receives Alfonsin at ILO meeting

GENEVA (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khalid Al Haj Hassan, who is also chairman of the 73rd International Labour Organisation (ILO) conference currently held here, received Thursday at the U.N. Palace Argentinian President Raul Alfonsin.

The minister conveyed to President Alfonsin the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein and his best wishes to further progress and prosperity to the Argentinian people.

Mr. Haj Hassan received at the U.N. headquarters earlier Thursday labour ministers of Egypt, Morocco, India, and Uruguay and Somalia's envoy to the U.N., each separately.

Talks during the meetings focused on bilateral relations with each of the countries and means of strengthening cooperation between them, especially in labour fields. They also exchanged views about the issues being discussed by the ILO conference.

On Wednesday, participants at the ILO conference held a special reception for President Alfonsin, under the chairmanship of Mr. Haj Hassan.

Jordan to attend meetings on Islamic culture

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a special session of the International Committee for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage and also in the 5th session of the Islamic Centre for History, Arts and Culture.

Jordan's delegation will be headed by director of the Antiquities Department, Adnan Al Haddidi.

Taking part in the meetings will be representatives of 13 Arab and Muslim countries. The 5th session of the Islamic research centre will be dedicated to discussing the centre's new projects, the

VTC to open vocational training centre in Aqaba

AQABA (Petra) — The Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) will open a vocational training centre in Aqaba in February 1988, according to Mr. Zakaria Barqawi, director of the new centre.

The building and infrastructure have been set up, and a tender for the purchase of JD 400,000 worth of equipment has been announced, Mr. Barqawi said.

The new centre, the first of its kind in southern Jordan, will train local youths for the different industrial plants in the south of the country, Mr. Barqawi added.

Trainees, he said, will have three-year courses, for which programmes will be drawn up in cooperation with local industries. The new centre in Aqaba, Mr. Barqawi added, will hold selective courses for females in repairing home appliances, in cooperation with the Noor Al Hussein Foundation and the women's union in Aqaba.

The Aqaba centre, he noted, will offer male trainees courses in electrical engineering, auto mechanics, carpentry, interior decorating and smithery.

U.N. fact-finding panel heads for Syria

AMMAN (J.T.) — A United Nations committee investigating Israeli practices affecting the human rights of Palestinians living in occupied territories has arrived in Damascus from Amman upon the conclusion of its mission in Jordan.

During the visit the committee members were received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and held talks with ministers and officials on the situation in the occupied Arab territories and Israel's violations of human rights.

The committee, comprising officials from Sri Lanka, Yugoslavia and Senegal, had arrived in Jordan from Cairo last Sunday and heard testimony from people who lived under Israeli occupation.

Its chairman, Daya Pereira of Sri Lanka, said that evidence presented covered a wider range than usual.

Israel has not allowed the committee, which reports every year to the United Nations General Assembly, to visit the occupied territories.

W. Germany to provide money for technical aid

AMMAN (Petra) — West Germany is to give Jordan a 70 million mark loan and 32 million mark grant as part of Bonn's technical assistance to the Kingdom under a 1987 and 1988 assistance programme, according to a protocol signed by the two sides in Amman on Thursday.

The protocol, which culminates talks that started in Amman on Tuesday, provides for West Germany to offer technical assistance in agriculture, energy, health, industry, water and vocational training, and to offer Jordan 32 scholarships for vocational training during 1987.

Dr. Willy Ehmann, head of the Asia, Europe and Middle East

department at the West German Ministry of Economic Cooperation signed the protocol with Dr. Ziyad Fariz, Secretary general of the Ministry of Planning.

After the signing ceremony, Dr. Ehmann was received by Minister of Planning Dr. Taher Kapaan in the presence of West German Ambassador to Jordan Herwig Bartels. They reviewed technical and economic cooperation between West Germany and Jordan.

The two sides also discussed the West German contribution to the Jordanian-sponsored five-year development plan for the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Over JD 2m collected in land fees

AMMAN (Petra) — The Department of Lands and Survey has collected JD 952,512 in fees during the past month for the registration of land and real estate included in selling and buying transactions. The department director, Mr. Badri Al Mulqi, said that his department collected JD 1,342,413 in the previous month, also in fees for the registration of real estate.

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Furthering joint cooperation

JORDANIAN and Syrian government leaders have been holding talks in Amman for the purpose of giving further momentum to the joint cooperation and fruitful coordination leading the two countries towards further prosperity. Needless to say that these talks which focus attention on various domains and joint endeavours will lend contribution to the effort for strengthening the might of the Arab Nation. Damascus and Amman have been able to overcome obstacles and have forged genuine cooperation in economic and trade fields, and paved the way for further coordination of efforts conducive to total integration between the two countries. This Jordanian Syrian endeavour is one more link in an all-out endeavour by Arabs everywhere for attaining unity; and the work of the two governments serves as an example for all Arab sister countries. Jordan has been keen on maintaining bridges with all Arab countries and paving the way for economic, political and social integration among various Arab states which aspire for unity and prosperity. Jordan believes that the Arab World which abounds with vast resources and skilled manpower can achieve its goals and objectives.

Al Dustour: Pressing for peace

A seven-member Arab committee due to meet in New York with the United Nations secretary general will no doubt point to the danger inherent in the Gulf conflict and its consequences on Arab countries in the region. This meeting is important, coming at a time when the Iran-Iraq war is being escalated and involving other countries and superpowers. Such conflict is bound to harm world peace and security and could usher in further deterioration in international relations. The superpowers which have been supplying arms to the two parties have not shown keen interest in ending the conflict, and for this reason the war has been escalating and expanding. In the light of this situation the United Nations efforts and good offices are required; and it is time for the international community to take some action designed to bring about peace and end any interference by superpowers in the affairs of the countries in the region. The work of the seven-member committee is important because through the UN secretary general the views of the countries in the Gulf region can be put to the member nations of the Security Council, paving the way for real action on the part of the world community to work for a real peace.

Sawt Al Shaab: Israel digs its grave

ISRAELI leaders believe that by consolidating their hold on the Arab territories under occupation and by brutally treating the Arab inhabitants and demolishing their homes, they can secure total domination and perpetuate their occupation. Israel, as King Hussein said in his address to the Royal War College, is wrong to believe that through repression and with the elapse of time the Arabs will forget their homeland and forfeit their rights. Israel's repressive actions in the Dheisheh camp and the Gaza Strip represent part of Israel's colonisation programme which, as King Hussein said, remind us of Nazi atrocities and discrimination between ethnic groups and people. When a 14-year old Israeli youth was found dead in the occupied Arab territory the Jews raised the hue and cry about such action pointing accusing fingers to the Arabs. But when the Israeli troops kill Arab children no finger is raised in the defence of the Arab people. The recent events in the occupied Arab region have shown clearly that the Israelis are escalating their repressive acts against the Arabs, but the Israelis should realise that the Arab population cannot forget their homeland nor will it kneel to the occupiers.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Unity and Freedom

WEDNESDAY the Jordanian family celebrated the Great Arab Revolt and Army Day, an annual event that reminds Jordanians of the efforts of their leaders and a moment for renewing determination for achieving more prosperity for the Arab Nation. King Hussein who addressed the Royal War College, referred to this occasion and also voiced Jordan's rejection of the policy of containment and reaffirmed the meanings of the principles of the Great Arab Revolt which seeks unity and freedom for the Arabs everywhere. The principles of the Great Arab Revolt he said serve as a plan and a course of action for the Jordanian family and leadership, and an inspiration for strong intrinsic Arab power that can resist all forms of foreign domination, containment and hegemony. Jordan which has been warning against intrigues and conspiracies of the enemies of the Arab World, has at the same time been calling for mobilisation of Arab resources and efforts to confront the common threats. The anniversary of the Great Arab Revolt and Army Day is a meeting point between the past and the present and should give us an inspiration for successful endeavours in the future.

Al Dustour: Positive element from Venice

THE Venice summit has issued a statement underlining the need for international community's efforts for ending the Gulf conflict and starting negotiations between Iran and Iraq to reach a permanent solution of their problems. This statement is considered a positive and objective element as it bears significance since it comes from an important conference, grouping major world nations and the richest in the Western world. But although this attitude is appreciated, we cannot see in it more than a repetition of earlier statements by Western powers which failed to take practical steps to help bring the Gulf war to an end. The United States which has been offering a lip service to the Arabs has even involved itself in the conflict by sending in war ships. What the Gulf region and the two parties to the conflict need is genuine concerted efforts by different world nations for serious action that can put an end to the conflict and bring peace to the peoples of the Gulf region. We welcome any positive move by the Western industrialised nations towards ending the Gulf conflict, but we expect some kind of action that can extinguish the fire, and serious efforts on the part of the international community.

View From Amman

Arab politics in crisis

THE state of nature of contemporary Arab political life is in such violent confusion that few Arabs dare delve into it. It is as though the matter concerns some other people and as though the peoples of the area are merely tourists, outside observers passing by. One former president of Argentina, and there are a number of them in a country not known for its stable regimes, remarked that perhaps the most revolutionary thing that could happen in most countries of the Third World would be to have the law applied in them. But then it seems as if a strange notion has spread throughout, that the law is a gift for, and not a right of the people; that external, even internal matters are not concerns of the public domain and that the public treasury is at the behest of the ruler at the top and his favourites. In the Arab World now, there is no agreement on the broad outlines, the goals either of the region as a whole or even within its component parts. The title of King Hussein's autobiography, *Uneasy Lies The Head*, aptly describes the predicament of a leader torn between conflicting demands and ideologies. The absence of pan-Arab ideological consensus even hinders the steady hand in local affairs. President Gamal Abdul Nasser's book was grandly titled, *The Philosophy of The Revolution*, and subtitled, *A Role in Search of Hero*; the tempest has subsided leaving only sad reminders in its wake: false hopes, shattered realities, and no hero. Mr. Anwar Sadat's *Search of Identity* accurately portrays the condition of the Arabs today. The search, begun with the advent of Napoleon, is until now still pursued in earnest. In this descriptive and analytical research we should not forget the spectrum of other ideological

possibilities now offered ranging from the fundamentalist groups on the extreme right through the Liberation movement, the Muslim brotherhood, the various centrist ideologies and ideologues through the Ba'ath Arab Socialist Party to the extreme left, Communists, Trotskyites and others. As though to add another light to the array of confusion, President Mu'ammarr Qadhafi offers his little *Green Book*.

At the end of one of his research papers concerning the "Sources of Legitimacy" of the Arab regimes, Professor Sa'd Al Din Ibrahim concludes that, "...our leaders have turned away from that which is desired and sought after (by the Arabs). The pan-Arab national project has been lost in individual local schemes, and even these local schemes are lost or almost lost in sectarian, familial or individual ones. In our world, politics have been converted to bargains and security concerns; our intellectual and cultural life into propaganda of the (light) of information into darkness and the leaders converted themselves into demi-gods. Our heroes now are those who play the stock market, weapon dealers, merchants of spoiled food, sectarian monarchs. It is a world without legitimacy, governed by fear: The fear of the ruled of their ruler and the latter of those he rules."

This damning dark picture is a Dorian Grey portrayal of what many Arab intellectuals of today see in Arab political life. Under the force and the intense demands of popular expectations most leaders of the region have opted for stability as against popular

participation and a rational or semi-rational rule of law. The more stability was emphasised the more irrational became the political life in that given regime. Surely this obsession with stability and security was rationalised as a necessary step along the way. But that step never seems to lead anywhere and the orderly rational political order necessary for genuine progress and development remains what it is now: A promise, a check to be cashed against the future.

And as the emphasis on stability increased, so did the isolation of the leaders from their societies. The leader has become remote, isolated and in self-exile. Lacking the light of direction emanating from consulting with the people, the leaders continue to operate in the dark. Piecemeal, ad hoc relations replace rational planning and the dark. This personalisation of power symptomatic of Arab political life has been a major cause for the continued confusion. How can a society truly develop if it cannot agree on how to disagree on matters of public concern in a rational institutionalised and thus civilised fashion. This situation was best expressed by President Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union when he remarked, not too long ago, that a strange psychology has developed among many of the leaders of his country hoping for change to occur without their changing first.

If the Communist world can assert that the ideology and tools of one hundred years ago cannot be fully operative today, how can the authoritarianism of that age be operative in the Arab World now? Things have changed!

By Kamel S. Abu Jaber

Part Two

Israel holding the U.S. power strings

By Claudia Wright

WASHINGTON — The scandal of the Reagan administration have grown so numerous that the supply of Washington lawyers to defend high government officials may be running out. But Israel is proving to be the defence of last resort. In a case that is without precedent in American history, the attorney general of the U.S., Edwin Meese, who is facing allegations of personal corruption, has engaged as his defender the Washington lawyer who is simultaneously defending an Israeli air force general whom the Americans have charged with espionage, and whom Attorney General Meese is supposed to be prosecuting. The behaviour of the State Department in the Pollard affair demonstrated that Israel was effectively in control of U.S. government diplomacy.

The Iran arms scandal has shown that the president, the White House, and the CIA leadership were taking their orders from Tel Aviv. Even the congressional inquiry into Iran is being controlled by the Israelis behind the scenes. And now it appears that American justice itself is dependent on Israel.

In an exclusive investigation, ASA has learned that on May 7 Attorney General Meese hired as his personal attorney Nathan Lewin of the Washington law firm, Miller Cassidy Larroca and Lewin. The attorney general is under investigation for alleged conflict of interest and corruption in the award of U.S. army contracts to a now bankrupt New York firm called Wedtech Corporation. A federal grand jury is investigating bribes paid by Wedtech to U.S. government officials, members of Congress, and New York City officials. Wedtech produces engines for army jeeps, small engines for other military uses, and pontoons for the U.S. navy.

Several of Wedtech's executives have already pleaded guilty to charges of bribery and other offences. In return for leniency and shortened prison sentences they have told prosecutors about millions of dollars in company bribes. The allegation against Meese is that in return for Meese's help in winning U.S. contracts, Wedtech transferred funds to a San Francisco businessman, who in turn set up a financial partnership with Meese and Meese's wife. Whether part of the income from this partnership came from Wedtech payoffs, whether Swiss bank accounts were used to conceal a payoff, and whether Meese was part of the Wedtech conspiracy are questions now being investigated by an independently appointed U.S. prosecutor, as well as by New York prosecutors. Also accused and under investigation is a White House friend of Meese's and former assistant to President Reagan, Franklin Nofziger.

There is more than one Israeli connection in the case. One of the convicted heads of Wedtech, Frederick Neuberger, is an Israeli, who lived in Palestine after World War II, fought in the war of 1948-49, and came to know many of Israel's political leaders.

including former Prime Minister Menachem Begin. Neuberger moved to the U.S. and while in charge of Wedtech, he helped direct the takeover of an Israeli company, Carmo Industries. Carmo produced the engine casings used in Wedtech's U.S. Army contracts. Carmo has also been producing parts for West German car companies Audi, BMW and Mercedes. Whether U.S. government officials helped Carmo win German business is not known. Lawyers for Wedtech and for Neuberger say they do not know whether any of the special U.S. technologies and patents used by Wedtech were transferred to the Israeli subsidiary, Carmo.

The hiring of Nathan Lewin in Meese's defence reveals another aspect of Israeli involvement in this affair. Late in February Lewin's law office confirmed that he had been hired to defend Brig.-Gen. Aviem Sella, the Israeli Air Force officer who was the initial controller of Jonathan Pollard in his spying for Israel against the U.S. As Sella's attorney, Lewin attempted to persuade Meese's subordinates not to proceed with a criminal indictment against Sella. This failed, and on March 3, U.S. prosecutors formally charged Sella with three counts of espionage against the U.S.

This was not Attorney Lewin's first experience in Israeli espionage cases. In 1978-79 he was the lawyer defending Stephen Bryen, then a staff member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who was under investigation by the Justice Department for alleged espionage for Israel. Bryen was suspected of having passed classified U.S. intelligence on Arab defences to Israel. Lewin persuaded the Justice Department not to proceed with the investigation, and the case was dropped over the protests of the investigators by order of the assistant attorney general at the time, Philip Heymann. Heymann was an old friend of Lewin's and was living in Lewin's house during the period of the Bryen investigation. Bryen is now the Pentagon official in charge of overseeing transfer of U.S. technology abroad. If Wedtech was legally required to obtain government permission to transfer technology to its Israeli subsidiary, Bryen's office would control the decision.

U.S. officials and espionage investigators say they have never before heard of a case in which the same lawyer was representing simultaneously the attorney general of the U.S. and a man accused of spying against the U.S. When ASA first queried the Justice Department about Meese's involvement with Lewin, officials said they were unaware that the attorney general's lawyer was the same as Brig.-Gen. Sella's. They added: "There's nothing to prevent Mr. Lewin from giving adequate representation to his two clients." They denied there was any conflict of interest or impropriety in Meese's connection to Lewin. A spokesman for the attorney general told ASA this was because "Mr. Meese has rescued himself from any departmental matter having to do with any case being handled by Lewin's law firm."

What this means, technically, is that the attorney general would make no decision on cases like Sella's in which Lewin or his partners were engaged as attorneys. But what about the wider U.S. government investigation of the Pollard spy-ring? And of the illegal activities of U.S. and Israeli officials caught in the Iran arms scandal? With Meese indebted to Lewin in a case involving bribes from an Israel-connected company, how could the attorney general be expected to act impartially in decisions on whether to prosecute Israelis other than Sella, and their U.S. friends and allies? According to one of the investigators working on the Iran arms scandal, Meese ought to have realised that hiring Lewin created all sorts of problems, and that by acting the way he has, the attorney general has "abdicated a significant portion of his responsibility."

But Meese's recent actions and public statements suggest he has done worse than this. There are indications that during and immediately after a trip to Israel last year, Meese secretly sided with the Israel last year, Meese secretly sided with the Israelis and tried to block U.S. prosecution of Gen. Sella. The Jewish National Fund invited Meese to plant a grove of trees in memory of Meese's son who was killed some years ago in a drunk-driving accident in Washington. During his visit, the attorney general was received by every major Israeli government official, and according to Israeli press reports at the time, they pressed him to bar Austrian President Kurt Waldheim from entering the U.S.

In a speech to a group of American Jewish leaders after his return to Washington, Meese promised to close the Justice Department's investigation into the Pollard espionage case "as rapidly as possible." When pressed on whether he would agree to prosecution of Gen. Sella, Meese refused to say. But he went on to attack Justice Department officials whose leaks to the press about Israeli theft of U.S. defence technology Meese called "absolutely despicable." He promised that if the sources of the leaks are identified, "they will be disciplined and prosecuted if that is appropriate." Meese has made no comparable criticism of Israeli officials for spying on the U.S.

According to the Israeli press, Meese was accompanied on his trip to Israel by a California friend named Robert Wallach. Wallach has been identified in the Wedtech inquiry as having served simultaneously as Meese's personal lawyer and a legal advisor to Wedtech. It was Wallach who was paid by Wedtech to write Meese, asking for his help in Wedtech's efforts to win U.S. Army contracts. Later, Wallach reportedly introduced to Wedtech the man with whom Meese set up his investment scheme, and through whom it is now alleged Wedtech may have passed money intended for Meese. As U.S. investigators discovered, when looking into the bank accounts of Jonathan Pollard, Israel's American friends do not aid Israel out of devotion to Zionism. The road to mount Zion passes through Swiss bank accounts — Arab News.

Thatcher victory exposes deep divisions within Britain

By Alan Elsner
Reuter

LONDON — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has won a new five-year mandate to achieve her ambition of killing off British Socialism but her election triumph exposed the reality of a deeply-divided nation.

It left a country geographically bisected between a prosperous Conservative South and a North where Socialism is still the dominant political creed.

By smashing a resurgent Labour Party and gaining a third term in office, Thatcher has won a unique position in British political life. She will face few, if any, restraints at home while enjoying enormous prestige abroad.

Ironically, Thatcher achieved her victory with only about 43 per cent of the popular vote. Many Britons remain at best unconvinced, at worst deeply hostile, to her message which proclaims the primacy of the individual against the collective powers of the state.

"The country wakes up this morning to find itself more divided than ever with a prime minister whose divisive personality is not equipped to supply the soothing balm required," wrote political commentator Hugo Young in *The Guardian*.

While her party won almost all the parliamentary seats in southern and central England, Labour increased its vote in the areas which have suffered most under Thatcher — the decayed industrial heartland of northern Britain where most of the country's three million unemployed are concentrated.

The election was effectively won and lost in the Midlands, where the two halves meet. Analysts said Thatcher's success in extending the spread of property and wealth into this key region was an important ingredient in her victory.

Labour leaders, whose bleak picture of the country was clearly not shared by voters, complained

bitterly that southerners, seduced by Thatcher's tax cuts and share handouts, had ignored the plight of the poor.

"People who are better off in this country have turned their backs on their fellow-citizens," said Labour industry spokesman John Smith.

While much of the north was sunk in gloom following the election result, the city of London financial district, which has seen centuries-old trade restrictions swept away under Thatcher, cele-

brated by sending shares to record highs — and then cashing in on the profits.

"We aren't looking at a situation where the political structure is one where a great majority of the British people have reaffirmed Mrs. Thatcher's government," said Shirley Williams, a defeated candidate of the centrist Liberal-Social Democratic Party Alliance.

"We are looking at a situation where the electoral system simply cheats the people of what they

want," she said in a reference to the British electoral system of first past the post rather than proportional representation which the alliance favours.

Home Secretary Douglas Hurd said the image of a politically divided Britain was over-simplified.

"We don't regard ourselves as the government of the blue (Conservative) bits on the map but of all these islands," he said.

"It so happens that what we have concentrated on in the last 15

months has been to put into place policies which will actually remedy the problems in our cities."

"How has Thatcher, the most hated person in Britain, endured so long?" asked poet Adrian Mitchell, a supporter of the opposition Labour Party, in a newspaper Article before the election.

"Because she has a vision," he said. "Thatcher saw that unlightened self-interest could still light a fire in a good many hearts."

The most reactionary government in this cruel century has split the country."

The prospect of a deepening north-south divide is unlikely to deter Thatcher from administering more large doses of the free-market medicine she believes Britain still needs.

She has already given notice of her intention of attacking Labour in one of its last-remaining strongholds — the municipal councils which run the big cities.

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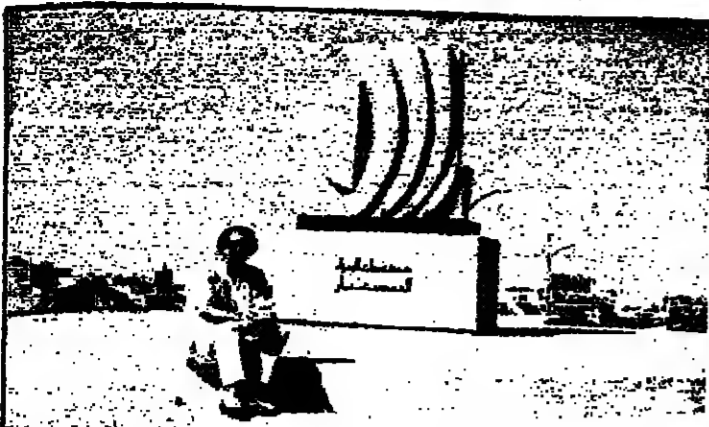
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Mona Saudi sits next to her sculpture, Growth, on the Sixth Circle

An epitaph to a statue

By Mona Saudi

With the dismantling of the Sixth Circle, the sculpture adorning the roundabout is to be moved by the Amman Municipality to a new place. Sculptor Mona Saudi, the artist who made the piece wrote the following "Open Letter" to the Mayor of Amman. The letter appeared last week in Al Rai Arabic daily.

TOMORROW, the bulldozers will come and trample on my heart! From my heart, I had carved a statue and erected it in the city where I was given life. I was born in Amman in a house near the Nymphaeum and I used to play with the nymphs in my childhood days. When the springs gave water, I ran between the Nymphaeum and the Roman Amphitheatre. In holidays we climbed the Jabal Al Kala', which overlooked barren endless, musical hills, where the colours and forms changed with the movement of day light, and at sunset a rosy light enveloped the earth.

And I had dreams, and visions. On the steps of the Roman Amphitheatre I used to leave my little friends and wander among the statues, gazing, touching and admiring. And when I return home my mother used to tell me that these statues were Beings who disobeyed God and were thus punished and turned into stones.

I did not believe that, and instead I saw stones filled with life, — and my dreams of creating statues began.

The First Circle was Amman's western-most boundary then, which as child I seldom reached. And when I grew up I attended school in Jabal Amman. Then the Second Circle was born, and that became the limit of our walks at the end of classes. Years later the city stretched out to a Third Circle, and buildings of pink stones sprang up into the area — stones which probably were made from the rosy light which covered the earth at sundown.

And wherever I went in the growing city, I heard the music of hammers and chisels carving stones to build new houses, and I began searching for tools to make my dream. My dream was to do sculptures and plant them in my city. Then when I was seventeen years old, I left Amman and travelled abroad for twenty years: Studying, learning, searching, walking in the streets of Paris and dreaming of Amman; sculpturing in my atelier in Beirut and dreaming of Amman; working in the marble mountains in Carrara and dreaming of the pink stone of Amman. But it was important that I learn more and mature before returning home.

When I finally returned, the city had stretched into eight circles, and the barren hills were now covered with houses. And when I took my small daughter to show her the place where I was born, I found the outer walls of the Nymphaeum had nearly disappeared, and the inside of building, where the water sprang from among the stones between the carved arches, was now more like the gathering of the city's rubbish. I was sad, my daughter asked me about the water and the nymphs, and I told her that the water had dried up, and that the nymphs did not like to live in abandoned places.

I told myself: Carve a sculpture, and call it "Growth" and plant it in the city; and I carved from my heart a granite sculpture and planted it at the Sixth Circle. It was just before dawn, the rains were falling, and it was biting cold, and the statue was raised and put on place. At that moment, after 20 years of sculpturing, I felt that my dream was becoming true and added to my satisfaction was the feeling that the sculpture was put in the right environment — open space — for all the people to see and own.

Then, I waited for the sculpture to be lit at night, to enable it to conquer the darkness and to expose it to people, but my waiting was in vain. After waiting for a long time I took the lamps myself and gave light to what I believe to be of an artistic and cultural value.

After a few days, however, the lights were put off. I told them those who put lights off, if they would allow me I would erect ten sculptures in Amman. That would have given me the feeling that I had done my duty towards my country. And then I saw big coffee pots erected everywhere and cheap water fountains planted in every corner; I told them: We are the people who carved the Roman Amphitheatre, the Nymphaeum, Petra and Jerash. They laughed at me, and said: This is the age of cement and traffic lights — Red, stop — Yellow, get ready — Green, go!! And they began to remove the Circles, and with them they removed the memories of our beloved city...

I said: At least remove my sculpture to a suitable open space. And I proposed a new site, the one we used to call the Fourth Circle. I studied how the light would effect the forms and the lines, and how it would be seen from different angles. But they said: No, we shall cramp this statue into a small space!

And, tomorrow, the bulldozers will come and trample on my heart! My poet friend says: The wind will bring all kinds of clouds, and you must be patient.

So, move forwards, bulldozers, trample on my heart, for my heart is many hearts, and my dream is a spring which will create forms and statues.

And will the day come when a bulldozer will never cut off a tree or a statue, or a dream!!

'Improved' outlook for pancreas transplants

PANCREAS transplants for diabetics had been less successful than hoped but the outlook seemed to be improving, a Munich transplant specialist told a Wiesbaden conference of specialists in internal medicine.

Professor Walter Landgraf of the Munich University transplant centre was addressing an organ transplant symposium held as part of the Wiesbaden internal medicine congress.

Results seemed, he said, to have been improving for two years — so much so that serious consideration must be given to pancreas transplants as a treatment for patients suffering from diabetes since childhood or youth. The pancreas is the gland where vital insulin is produced in the body.

This I-type diabetes, affecting young people, requires constant insulin treatment to reduce the blood sugar count and enable patients to lead almost normal lives.

But after 15 to 20 years the first signs of long-term damage occur. It includes microangiopathy, or damage to minute blood vessels, that can cause loss of eyesight, macroangiopathy, or damage to large blood vessels, that can

cause strokes and heart attacks, and kidney damage.

Pancreas transplants have so far been limited to patients with damaged kidneys and patients with retinopathy, or seriously damaged blood vessels at the back of the eye, even when their kidneys are still in reasonable working order.

Patients in the first category, Professor Landgraf said, are usually given a kidney and pancreas transplant.

Pancreas transplants are unsuitable for patients aged over 50 and for patients with serious coronary damage and damage to the blood vessels serving the brain.

In the past two years 27 diabetics were given pancreas transplants in Munich. None need insulin any longer, he said, and long-term complications had been halted.

There were even signs that they might be reversed. Nearly 60 per cent of transplant patients were found to have better vision, as against 30 per cent with no change and 12 per cent with poorer eyesight.

— DPA Frankfurt Rundschau.

Survivors angry 20 years after Israel attacked U.S.S. Liberty

By Christopher Hanson
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Twenty years after Israeli jets and boats hit the U.S. navy surveillance ship Liberty in the Mediterranean, killing 34 Americans, the survivors are still bitter not only at Israel but at their own government.

Members of the U.S.S. Liberty Veterans Association, meeting in Washington for a reunion this week told Reuters they were angry at Israel for launching the attack at what they insist was a clearly marked ship flying the U.S. flag.

They were angry at the U.S. government for what they charged was a 20-year cover-up of the case.

"The whole thing is shameful," Stan White, who was the senior petty officer on the Liberty, told Reuters.

"And today Congress gives

Israel everything it asks for," he said, referring to Israel's standing as the number one recipient of U.S. military and economic aid worldwide.

On June 8, 1967, Liberty was patrolling near the Arab-Israeli war zone, but in international waters. Liberty's job was to intercept communications of the warring parties and transmit them to Washington for analysis.

White, who was on deck before the attack that morning trying to repair a satellite communications antenna, saw some low-flying observation planes he assumed were Israeli. It gave him an uneasy feeling, he said.

But Terry Halbardier, a communications technician on the Liberty, recalled, "I felt good about it because I knew they could see our American flag."

His good feelings did not last long.

Two French-built Israeli Mir-

age jets suddenly swept in firing rockets. Four men manning Liberty's only defences — 50 calibre machine guns — were killed instantly, Halbardier said.

Two more Israeli jets quickly followed. They dropped napalm, flaming jellied petrol that poured below decks in places, causing horrific casualties.

Several Israeli boats then joined the attack, scoring a hit with one torpedo and blasting away with machine guns, destroying the ship's life boats and shooting anything that moved on deck, survivors recalled.

The United States said the U.S. flag was clearly visible.

A former U.S. intelligence official, who once worked as a liaison man with Israeli intelligence, told Reuters recently it appeared the attack was deliberate.

He said Israel wanted to thwart U.S. electronic interception of plans for its imminent invasion of Syria's Golan Heights, which it seized the next day and still holds.

Israel said at the time and still maintains that the attack was a case of mistaken identity and that the attackers thought the ship was Egyptian. It specifically denied any intention to prevent U.S. interception of the Syrian war plan.

The Liberty attack lasted one hour and fifteen minutes, and 171 Americans were wounded as sailors fought desperately to put out fires, repair equipment and radio for help.

"The wounded were everywhere — being treated in passageways," Halbardier recalled.

All Liberty communications were knocked out in the initial rocket strike, according to White. He said he struggled to get a satellite antenna working until repeated hits from Israeli aircraft set it alight.

Halbardier was still trying unsuccessfully to get another communications antenna working. "Then (it) took a hit from a machine gun bullet and started

working."

Liberty sent out an emergency signal to the U.S. fleet. According to U.S. navy officers involved in the incident, jets scrambled to the aid of the Liberty but were called back — for reasons that have never been explained.

Liberty survivors said they were especially bitter that no rescue materialised.

Helicopters from the U.S. fleet did not arrive until hours later. Liberty limped to Malta for repairs under its own power.

The survivors were also bitter. White said, because the navy clamped down a lid of secrecy.

According to Western diplo-

mas, Washington chose to forgive and forget because it viewed Israel, which was spectacularly successful in its 1967 war, as a useful ally.

As White sees it, diplomatic considerations outweighed the desire to get at the truth about the Liberty.

Liberty veterans are especially angry at the contrast between their treatment and the public tributes given to the crew of the U.S. frigate Stark, which was hit by an Iraqi jet last month in an apparently accidental attack that killed 37.

President Reagan lauded the Stark's victims and survivors as "heroes". The bodies were returned and buried in moving televised ceremonies.

"There is real resentment at what was not done for the Liberty crew," White said.

The survivors conducted their own candlelight memorial to the Liberty's dead in a Washington hotel ballroom on Saturday, the first day of their reunion.

"People just cried like babies — they really got a lot out of their systems," White said.

Washington Mayor Marion Barry proclaimed Monday, June 8 as U.S.S. Liberty Memorial Day.

Gene Hackman learns to relax — and now cannot stop working

By Ronald Clarke
Reuter

LOS ANGELES — Gene Hackman, wearing a tired grey T-shirt and a pair of faded jeans, sprawls on a chair in the sweltering sunshine outside a church hall in a Los Angeles slum, sipping a soft drink.

A head pops out of a battered truck as it rumbles by and shouts — "Hey, Popeye."

"Sixteen years after I made 'The French Connection' people still think of me as the film's character, Popeye Doyle," Hackman says with a shrug.

"I get a little tired of people yelling at me across streets, but you can't knock it," he adds. "Popeye certainly made my career."

Behind Hackman, in a church converted into a gymnasium, 150 young extras are milling round a boxing ring, shouting at two actors playing boxers.

In between takes, fans are turned on to try to keep the temperature, hovering at the 100-degree mark, and tempers down.

David Drury, a British director who is making his first American picture, is under pressure to fin-

ish scenes on time. "Anyone not in this scene — out of the hall," he shouts. Extras wipe off their sweat outside in the grimy street with his rundown shops.

Hackman relaxes in the slight breeze, waiting to be called. "I am enjoying myself at last," he says. "I used to be much more intense. I was trying to make a career for myself. Now, I'm not so worried."

Hackman, at 56, may be relaxed but he cannot stop working.

In his latest film, "Kid Gloves," he plays a former boxer whose life revolves around his two sons, one a professional and the other an amateur boxer, and his father, also a former boxer.

"I like the relationship between the boys, the father and the grandfather," he says. "It is rare to see three generations in a film and a number of confrontations."

Hackman is an avid boxing fan. "The sport both attracts and appals me," he says. "The brutality of the sport is something that I don't like. It probably shows there is a mean spirit in me and maybe boxing is like an exorcism."

Hackman, a former marine,

won an Oscar for his portrayal of Popeye Doyle and was nominated for two more awards for his roles in "Bonnie and Clyde" and "I Never Sang for My Father."

He recently completed "Hosiers" and two more of his films, "Superman IV" and "No Way Out" are waiting to be released.

"I like to work and think I am at an age now when I can get away with doing a lot of films," he said. "I don't star all the time. I'll take a second or third lead if I like the part."

"When I star it is more as a character actor. I'm not a leading man in the Cary Grant style," said Hackman, whose hair has been receding for the past 20 years, who is burly instead of slim and who wanders around the set finding chairs for visitors.

"I'm easier to cast because I'm older," he says. "When I was younger I probably looked old for my age."

After Hackman appeared in the first "Superman" film, with Christopher Reeve nine years ago, he stopped working for two years.

"I had done some films I wasn't terribly proud of," he says. "And I really thought I was going back

to the theatre. But I did absolutely nothing for those two years.

"I came back to make a comedy with Barbara Streisand and that didn't work," he says. "But now I am really moving."

Away from the screen, Hackman relaxes by painting and sculpting. "I go to a class about once a week."

He also has another hobby, motor racing. He took part in five sports car races last year and was in a celebrity race a month ago.

"The sport is dangerous, but I think the fascination for me is the concentration, trying to dominate the machine," he says. "Also, I like mixing with people who don't care who you are."

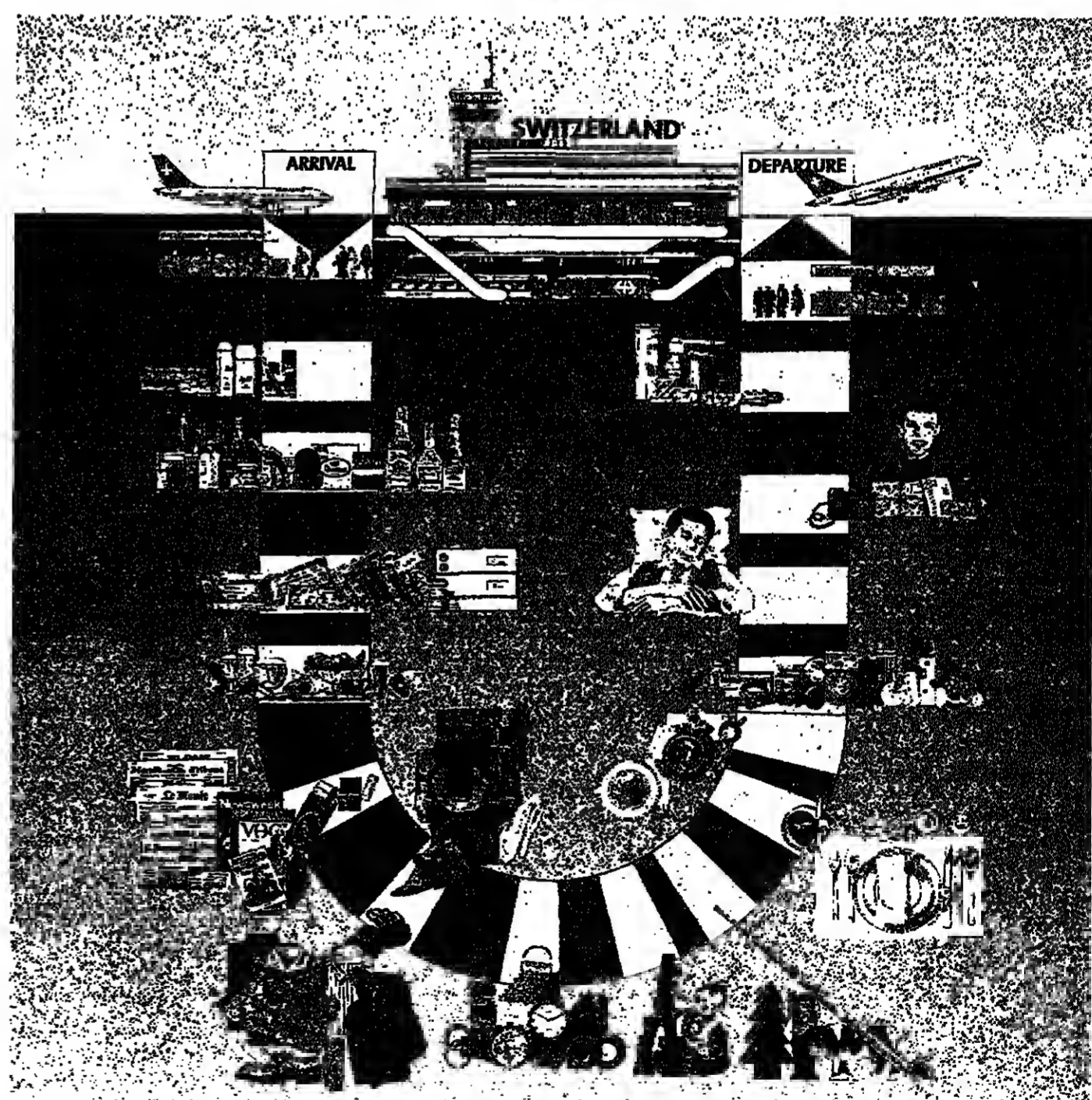
Drury leaves the set to rest for a few minutes.

"Working with Hackman is fabulous," he says. "I felt a bit in awe when he decided to do the film, but he is a remarkable professional. He always gives you something fresh, and that is good for a director."

Hackman admits he sometimes tries to help in directing a film. "I'm not going to stand up and direct, but I feel I can sometimes add a certain presence to a piece," he says.

"After 55 films, I can't keep my mouth shut," he adds with a laugh. "I try real hard, but there are areas in which you can help, particularly with young people."

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Becker sweeps into Queens Club semis

LONDON (Agencies) — Boris Becker, not quite scaling the heights of his previous matches, downed America's David Pate 6-4, 7-6, Friday to advance to the semifinals of the \$300,000 Stella Artois grass-court tennis tournament at Queens Club.

On round behind, Jimmy Connors reached the last eight of this important pre-Wimbledon warm-up event, along with India's Ramesh Krishnan.

Becker priming himself for a tilt at a third successive Wimbledon title, will play the winner of a later contest between defending champion Tim Mayotte of the United States and Ramesh Krishnan of India.

It was clear as early as the fourth game that Becker, two-time defending Wimbledon champion, was not as sharp as he was earlier in the week.

After breaking Pate for a 3-1 lead, the 19-year-old West German made three sloppy volleying errors that almost allowed the

eight-seeded American to break back into the match.

Becker managed to hold serve and took the first set, then broke Pate at the same stage in the second.

Appearing to be cruising to victory, Becker served for the match at 5-4, only to hit two double-faults — he made five in all — and drop his serve for the only time.

Each player then held serve and the set went into a tiebreaker, with Becker under threat of being taken to three sets for the first time in the tournament.

Pate had a great chance when he carved out the first break on the seventh point, but double-faulted on then next. He held for 5-4 but Becker strung together

three winners to take the tiebreaker and clinch victory.

"My main problem today was concentration," Becker said. "But one of my qualities on grass is being able to pump myself up when it gets tough."

"In the tiebreaker, I said to myself 'Let's get serious now and try to win it in two straight.'"

Connors, hiding to win the title at Queens for the fourth time, led Nigeria's Ndaka Odizor 7-5, 2-3 when play resumed after being suspended Thursday night.

He got the vital break in the 11th game and served out the match with an ace for a 7-5, 7-5 victory.

The veteran American was to play West Germany's Eric Jelen in the quarterfinals later Friday.

Krishnan beat another West German, Andreas Maurer, 6-1, 7-6, saving six set points in the second set tiebreaker. He was meeting defending champion Tim Mayotte later in the day for a place in the semis.

Top fillies clash in French Oaks

PARIS (R) — Top fillies Miesque, the pride of France, and English-trained Indian Skimmer clash in the Prix de Diane (French Oaks) at Chantilly on Sunday.

In what is arguably the most intriguing race in Europe so far this season, Backers on both side of the channel see it as a match between two outstanding individuals, although there are 11 runners in all.

Since Miesque was beaten on heavy ground in the Prix Morny last August, the daughter of Nureyev has carried all before her, including spectacular victories in the English and French 1,000 Guineas.

Brilliant though she is, Miesque, the mount of Freddie Head, is untried over this trip and faces her toughest opponent yet in Indian Skimmer.

The filly is trained by Henry Cecil and ridden by Steve Cauthen — the pair associated with Reference Point in the English Derby.

If she had run in last week's Epsom Oaks — she was never entered for the race — Indian Skimmer would have been one of the hottest favourites ever in the history of the classic.

Indian Skimmer has looked progressively more stunning when winning her four races this



Steve Cauthen with Reference Point which rode to victory in the Epsom Derby two weeks ago (File photo)

Last time out Sheikh Mohammed's filly went to France and had no difficulty beating prepaid — who renews rivalry on Sunday — by two and a half lengths in the Prix Saint Alary at Longchamp.

Miesque, trained by Francois Boutin, became the first horse for 40 years to land the English-French 1,000 Guineas double at Longchamp last month and could not have been more impressive.

Boutin felt, even so, that she was not at her best and provided she lasts out the one and half mile trip, Miesque looks like justifying favouritism and denying Sheikh Mohammed an Oaks double following his success with Unite at Epsom.

The improving Birthday Fever, mount of Maurice Philippon, who is unbeaten in both her races, looks the best of the others.

Celtics crushes Lakers 123-108 to keep championship hopes alive

BOSTON (R) — The Boston Celtics had to win Thursday night and they exploded under pressure, crushing the Lakers 123-108 to send the best-of-seven championship series back to Los Angeles trailing 3-2.

After a heartbreaking one-point loss to the Lakers on Tuesday, the Celtics were determined to keep their chance at a second consecutive championship alive as each of their starters scored at least 20 points.

Boston coach K.C. Jones went to his bench early to prevent a repeat of game four when the Celtics starting five appeared to tire down the stretch and blew a big lead to lose the game in the closing seconds.

His strategy worked as the Celtics beat Los Angeles at their own

game by out fast breaking the speedy Lakers and led by 15 points at the half, 63-48.

The Lakers managed to cut the lead to eight, but Boston guard Danny Ainge thwarted several Los Angeles comeback attempts. Ainge's outside shooting was outstanding as he successfully launched five three-point shots, four of them in the third period, and the Celtics led 96-77 after three quarters.

"Every time we made a run Ainge stopped us again," Lakers coach Pat Riley said after the game.

In the fourth quarter the Lakers poured it on, bringing the Boston lead down to under 10 points and a repeat of game four, when the Celtics let a 16 point lead slip away, seemed a possi-

bility. But the Celtics emphatically refused to throw in the towel and they rallied again on centre Robert Parish's slam dunk to go up 103-93 and never looked back.

Boston has their work cut out if they are to successfully defend their title as no team has ever come back from 3-1 down to win the National Basketball Association (NBA) championship.

That feat will be especially tough since the Celtics will have to win both games on the road and Boston has now lost six straight away games in post-season play.

The sixth game is Sunday afternoon at the Forum where the Lakers demolished Boston in games one and two.

Prince Hassan honours tae kwan do champs

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday received the two Jordanian tae kwan do champions, Firas Jayyousi and Tarek Lababidi, who clinched the silver and bronze medals respectively at the world's tae kwan do championship held in Helsinki, Finland, last month.

The Crown Prince congratulated both winners and praised the results and achievements

made by the Jordanian team at the tournament.

The federation's vice-president Issa Al-Abed Al-Reimouni, who was present during the meeting, thanked Prince Hassan for his continuing support for the federation and for the sports movement in Jordan. Since its establishment in the 1970s, the federation has won 32 gold medals, 9 silver medals and 21 bronze medals, at Arab and international competitions.



Aouita... world record smasher

Woman athlete reinstated as winner after appeal

SYDNEY (R) — Tani Ruckie on Friday reclaimed her Australian Marathon title after officials upheld an appeal against her disqualification after last Sunday's race.

Ruckie's reinstatement meant she finished 5,000 Canadian dollars (\$3,500) richer. Her 10,000 Canadian dollars (\$7,000) winner's cheque was returned and she was also allowed to keep a 5,000 Canadian dollars cheque given to her by race officials as compensation for her controversial disqualification.

The 24-year-old Australian became the first athlete ever to be disqualified for using a pacer in a

marathon when race officials maintained on Monday that she had used 38-year-old jogger Joe Buttigieg to pace her to victory.

Ruckie, who said she did not know Buttigieg, strenuously denied the charge before the three-member appeals jury.

The jury said there was evidence Ruckie had used a pacer but the action had not been planned.

The athlete, who will represent Australia in the Rome World Championships in August, said she was relieved the matter was over. "But most importantly I am pleased that my reputation has been cleared," Ruckie said.

Former world champion makes surprise comeback to track

RIJEKA, Yugoslavia (R) — Former 500 cc world champion 'Fast' Freddie Spencer makes a surprise return to action in the Yugoslav Motorcycling Grand Prix on Sunday.

The American unexpectedly appeared at the track earlier this week and declared himself ready to race competitively again. He proved it by recording the fastest time during unofficial practice on

Thursday. Spencer, who won the 250 and 500 cc titles in 1985, was sidelined for almost all of last year because of tendinitis and has yet to race this season after injuring himself in the Daytona 500 in March.

He was all set for his long awaited comeback at the West German Grand Prix at Hockenheim last month but was injured in practice and flew home with a knee in plaster.

Spencer meets an in-form Wayne Gardner, riding high at the top of the standings with 50 points after his latest success in the Austrian Grand Prix.

Aouita fails to better own world record

VERONA, Italy (R) — Said Aouita of Morocco failed to add the mile to his 1,500 and 5,000 metres world records, while U.S. sprinter Evelyn Ashford suffered a surprise defeat, at the Verona International Athletics Meeting Thursday night.

Aouita, who set a world best over two miles in Turin two weeks ago, had Thursday night's event changed from a scheduled 1,500 metres race to try to break Briton Steve Cram's two-year-old record of three minutes 46.32 seconds.

But despite the help of two pacemakers, Aouita could manage only 3:53.73, with Kenyan twins Kipkoech and Charles Cheruyot second and third. Ashford, the women's 100 metres world record holder and Olympic champion, was 0.09 seconds behind Angela Issajenko Taylor of Canada, who won in 11.19 seconds.

The American, who was running only her second race of the season, said afterwards she had pulled up just after leaving the blocks when she thought there had been a false start.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Hotel stages amateur tennis event

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Japanese and American communities in Amman organised on Friday an amateur tennis event at the Amman Marriott Hotel tennis courts. Tens of fans watched the one-day games, which were sponsored by the Marriott Hotel.

Adduften wins Arab Revolt tourney

AMMAN (J.T.) — Adduften volleyball team lifted the Arab Revolt Shield on Thursday after beating Al Aodah club 3-2 in the Arab Revolt tournament. Adduften's captain Ibrahim Abi received the shield from the director of Al Hussein Sports City, Marwan Khair, at the end of the match. Dr. Khair distributed medals to the players.

N. Korea fined after Olympic exclusion

ZURICH (R) — North Korea was Thursday disqualified from next year's Olympics and fined 5,000 Swiss francs (\$3,300) for failing to play four qualifying ties. The Executive Committee of the International Football Federation (FIFA) confirmed the exclusion of North Korea from the tournament in Seoul and added the fine when it met here on Thursday. FIFA's sub-committee for emergency matters had earlier ruled out North Korea for failing to play any of their Asian region qualifying ties in Kuala Lumpur in March. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the South Korean organisers had offered North Korea a limited sharing of the games, including some soccer events, to head off any possibility of a Communist boycott. FIFA refused to accept the North Koreans' contention that as co-hosts they were entitled, like their Southern neighbours, to automatic qualification in the 16-nation tournament. The meeting also decided that the final draft of rules for five-a-side soccer would be handed to FIFA and the diminutive version of the 11-a-side game would most likely be included as a demonstration sport in the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona.

Werder finds replacement for Voeller

WEST BERLIN (R) — Werder Bremen have found a replacement for striker Rudi Voeller, who is being transferred to Roma of Italy at the end of the season for a fee believed to exceed six million marks (\$3.3 million). First Division club Blau-Weiss Berlin has said their 21-year-old forward Karl-Heinz Riedle would sign for the Bremen Club on Friday for an agreed fee of 1.6 million marks (\$900,000).

Switzerland names squad to meet Sweden

ZURICH (R) — Switzerland's trainer Daniel Jeandupeux has named an unchanged 21-man squad for the European Soccer Championship Group Two qualifier against Sweden in Lausanne next Wednesday. The same squad was nominated for the last qualifying tie against Malta which Sweden won 1-0.

Brazilian driver launches fashion line

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazilian Formula One racing driver Ayrton Senna has launched his own line of men's sportswear. The 27-year-old Lotus driver and winner of last month's Monaco Grand Prix introduced his new fashion line at a Sao Paulo night-club reception on Thursday night but said it would not interfere with his driving. "This is just a way of investing part of the money I've made on the track," he said. "Racing is still my life."

East Germans set best performances

EAST BERLIN (R) — East Germans recorded four 1987 world best performances at a two-day athletics meeting in Neubrandenburg which ended on Thursday, the official news agency ADN reported. World record holder Jürgen Schult threw the discus 69.52 metres on Thursday, the best performance so far this year, while Silke Gladisch clocked a 200 metres time of 22.22 seconds. Gladisch, Kerstin Beltrandt, Ingrid Auerswald and world champion Marlies Göhr clocked the best time this year for the women's 4 x 100 metres relay in 42.38 seconds. Cornelia Oschkenat, silver medalist at last year's European championships in Stuttgart, set a 1987 world best time of 12.45 seconds for the 100 metres hurdles on Wednesday.

Bugner talks of retirement, but not his own

SYDNEY (R) — Heavyweight Joe Bugner was talking of retirement from boxing on Friday — not his own, but that of Canadian Trevor Berbick whom he fights on July 24. Bugner, 37, believes the Berbick fight gives him his best chance in 20 years of becoming world champion, and he says he will grasp the opportunity with both gloves. The Hungarian-born fighter, who was British and European champion before emigrating to Australia, says Jamaican-born Berbick is still suffering from his hammering by dual world champion Mike Tyson at the end of last year. "He'll still be thinking about getting smashed up by Tyson," Bugner said. "I don't think he'll be in the right frame of mind. I'll ease him out of his problems by sending him into retirement." American promoter Don King said Bugner would earn a crack at Tyson if he beat Berbick, third in the World Boxing Council (WBC) rankings, in the third fight of his comeback.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Friday. Tourist rates will differ from those quoted below.

One Sterling	1.6635/45	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3405/15	Canadian dollar
	1.7965/75	West German marks
	2.0232/42	Dutch guilders
	1.4870/80	Swiss francs
	37.23/28	Belgian francs
	6.0020/30	French francs
	1302/1303	Italian lira
	143.15/25	Japanese yen
	6.2640/90	Swedish crown
	6.6450/6500	Norwegian crowns
	6.7450/7500	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	461.20/461.70	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices stood at record levels in late trading after Thursday's landslide victory for the ruling Conservative Party in the general election.

There was a much expected initial surge in prices as market makers substantially marked up prices in anticipation of a flood of overseas investment support, but buying impetus was not sufficient to sustain the rally and profit-taking took prices off their best.

At 1430 GMT the FTSE 100 was up 35.6 points at 2,284.9 after touching a record 2,296.4 at 0712 GMT. The index opened 44.4 points higher, the largest ever initial gain.

The market took a roller-coaster ride during the session as any rally attempt met with little buying and persistent, although mainly domestic profit-taking. But dealers noted that overseas demand tended to gather pace. Friday afternoon, the FTSE 100 touched a low of 2,257.2 at 0921 GMT.

Dealers said the prospect of the continuity of past economic strategy, which to a large extent has been well received by markets, helped to underpin shares.

Africans call for conference on debt

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Delegates from the African Development Bank (ADB) and the African Development Fund (ADF) unanimously called Thursday for an inter-African conference on African debt.

The call came at the end of a three-day joint conference of the ADB and ADF attended by more than 900 delegates and observers from 76 member countries, 50 African and 26 non-African.

Delegates also approved a proposal to triple the bank's capital, to \$20 billion from \$6.3 billion. Fifty-one countries participated in the vote on the increase, and its approval was considered an important vote of confidence from bank shareholders.

Speaking at a press conference, Mr. Babacar Ndiaye, president of the ADB and ADF, said the capital increase would enable the bank to expand into new areas, including non-project lending and structural adjustment financing.

He added that the increase would enable substantial replenishment of the ADF and improvement of administrative sectors of the bank.

"We're going to improve our method of evaluation, our method of follow-up," he said.

Mr. Ndiaye has been a strong supporter of convening of an inter-African conference to discuss the continent's debt problems. In a speech, he urged a meeting of

leading African decision-makers to discuss how to deal with indebtedness-connected problems and to consider practical solutions "before inviting creditors (to participate) at a subsequent stage."

"This inter-African conference should be a prelude to an international conference on Africa's debt, for which it should prepare the agenda," Mr. Ndiaye said.

The conference was proposed by the West African country Ivory Coast, which sees it as an opportunity to discuss the recent decline in commodity prices. Ivory Coast's agriculture-based economy, like those of many African countries, is affected strongly by fluctuations in the commodity market.

In his speech, Mr. Ndiaye said, "the main cause of inadequacy of export receipts lies in the dramatic decline in commodity prices. ... as the domestic policy of the industrial countries amply shows, commodity prices — especially of agricultural products — are not best determined by market factors."

"We have frequently made it clear that the African countries and other developing countries have to be helped to secure remunerative prices for their exports. The present-day situation requires that we give serious consideration to what minimum prices could be obtained or pre-

U.N. sees slow world growth

UNITED NATIONS (R) — A United Nations report on the global economy said Thursday expansion is not happening fast enough to end high unemployment in industrial nations or raise the standard of life in most of the Third World.

The annual U.N. economic survey said growth is fragile and will not exceed 3.2 per cent this year with only a modest improvement in 1988.

"The world economy will not grow at a sufficiently high pace to allow improvements in the standard of living of a large number of developing countries," the United Nations said.

"Furthermore, unemployment rates in industrial countries will remain high, the international debt problem will not go away and large and persistent trade imbalances of the major industrial countries might exacerbate existing tensions," it added.

It projected a 2.5 per cent growth for the industrialised countries as a group in 1987 and three per cent next year. Japan would reach these levels in both years. Western Europe would record a steadier, slower rate.

The United States is expected to do a bit better, with growth rising to 3.4 per cent in 1988.

A rate of 2.7 per cent is seen for developing countries in 1987 and 3.8 per cent in 1988. But within this group the oil exporters would benefit most.

A major weakness in the world economy, according to the U.N. experts, continues to be the performance of world trade, estimated to grow in volume this year by only three per cent, compared with five per cent in the 1970s. The forecast assumes a gradual

decline in commodity prices. The deterioration in the terms of trade, and limited access to markets... impede efforts of developing countries to overcome hunger and malnutrition," the document said.

The council avoided singling out countries for criticism, despite lengthy wrangling in which some delegates had asked for the European Community, Japan and the United States to be named. Western diplomats said.

Earlier in the week, the Australian delegation said the three had helped wreck the export revenues of several poorer nations by subsidising over-production by their own farmers.

According to the council, international cereal stockpiles will hit a record 453 million tons this year, 27 per cent of the world's annual consumption, while some international food prices are at their lowest for 50 years.

It said some developed countries were showing signs of moving towards freer agricultural trade.

"These are to be welcomed, but much more needs to be done," it said.

Diplomats said Australia and several other countries at the ministerial meeting had pressed unsuccessfully for more specific criticisms to be made in the document during its closed sessions.

The council called on for major changes in world agriculture and protection for Third World peasants from the burden of international debt. Fifty countries were due to attend the meeting, but only 34 turned up.

U.N. group blames Third World hunger on protectionism

Meanwhile, the United Nations food aid organisation, the World Food Council, blamed protectionism in agriculture for Third World hunger, food "mountains" and collapsed international prices.

The organisation made its criticisms in a document issued at the end of a council meeting in Peking this week attended by government ministers and senior officials from 34 Third World and industrialised countries.

"Growing protectionism, the

More U.S. banks add reserves for bad loans

NEW YORK (R) — Chemical New York Corp and California's First Interstate Corp on Thursday set aside a total of \$1.6 billion for possible losses on foreign loans — joining the list of U.S. banks who fear some of the credit given to developing countries may be uncollectable.

Their announcements brought the total of additions to reserves made by banks to cover dubious foreign loans to more than \$8.5 billion since Citicorp started the trend last month with a \$3 billion provision.

Chemical, the fourth largest U.S. banking company, said it would set aside an additional \$1.1 billion to cover possible bad loans — the same amount put aside earlier this week by the second largest U.S. banking company, BankAmerica Corp.

First Interstate Bancorp, the ninth largest U.S. banking company, said it has added \$500 million to its reserves for international loans, with another \$250 million set aside for domestic loan losses. First Interstate said the added domestic reserves were mostly for real estate loans.

Chemical expects to report a net loss of about \$1.1 billion for the second quarter because of its addition. First Interstate expects a \$455 million loss in the current quarter and a "substantial loss" for the year.

"We have carefully examined our loan loss reserve position in light of recent announcements by other major financial institutions and believe an increase is appropriate at this time," Mr. Walter Shipley, chairman and chief executive officer of Chemical New York, said in a statement.

The moves by Chemical, First Interstate and other banks represent an acknowledgment that many loans to developing countries may be uncollectable.

Analysts have said that by making provisions now, banks could gain the upper hand in future debt negotiations. Some countries with weak economies may be unwilling or unable to pay their lenders, but still need fresh credits.

Citicorp will take a \$2.5 billion loss in the second quarter because of its addition, the largest quarterly loss ever by a U.S. banking company, and BankAmerica is taking a \$1 billion loss in the second quarter.

"While we see the developing country debt problem as an issue that will take some time to resolve, I'm optimistic that solutions can be found," Mr. Shipley said.

The Chemical chairman said the bank will continue to work closely with debtor countries, governments and financial institutions to provide support for their economic recovery.

Mr. Shipley said that Chemical expects to continue to see solid earnings growth in its core businesses and is confident about the outlook for 1988 and beyond.

NEWS IN BRIEF

IDB approves credits worth \$122 million

JEDDAH (R) — The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) agreed during meetings here to finance projects and trade operations in member states worth \$122 million, the official Saudi Press Agency said. It said the Jeddah-based bank had financed projects worth \$519 million so far this year. The IDB is financing four projects in Cameroon worth \$17.5 million. They include buying farming equipment and setting up a rice processing plant. In Algeria, the bank is involved in projects worth \$6.57 million, while Egypt is getting \$1.87 million to buy equipment for a palm oil factory. The IDB is also providing trade finance to other member countries of the Islamic Conference Organisation such as Jordan, Pakistan, Mauritania, Turkey, Uganda, Tunisia and Bangladesh.

Egypt to receive \$45.5m Kuwaiti loans

CAIRO (AP) — Kuwait is giving Egypt two loans for economic development totalling \$45.5 million, a senior Kuwaiti official said Thursday. Sheikh Badr Al Humaid, chairman of the Kuwait Development Fund, a government body, announced the loans to reporters after meeting with Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid. He said an agreement on one loan of \$10.5 million was signed on Thursday. It will be used to protect Egypt's Mediterranean coast in the Rosetta area from erosion, he said. Egyptian officials said the loan will be repaid over 20 years, including a 5-year grace period, at 3.5 per cent interest. Sheikh Al Humaid said the Kuwaiti fund also will lend Egypt \$35 million to help develop its pharmaceutical industry.

Bahrain stops permits for some firms

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain will stop issuing new permits for foreign engineering consultancy firms to operate in the island state, a senior official said Thursday. Mr. Hassan Fakhr, head of the national committee responsible for organising the practice of engineering consultancy companies, told Reuters: "The market is saturated and to minimise the hardships for Bahraini companies we are decreasing the competition." Some 50 engineering companies are registered in Bahrain.

Iraq centralises collection of zakah

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Council promulgated a new law Thursday centralising the collection of the Islamic alms tax — zakah — for distribution to the needy. The voluntary tax revenues prescribed in the Koran will be administered by a council of religious and legal officials and distributed among the poor, handicapped, orphans and widows, according to the law. Muslim clergymen have so far collected the tax independently.

Oil group cuts budget

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — The ministerial council of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) has approved a budget cut that had drawn protest from its secretary general, Mr. Ali Attiga of Libya.

A statement released on Thursday at the end of a two-day meeting of the council did not specify the rate of the cut. The executive bureau of the 11-member organisation had recommended a 20 per cent cut.

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Ali Khalifa Al Sabah said it was "better to face problems and solve them in the light of facts and present circumstances rather than turning in circles and living with illusions," he did not elaborate.

Sources in Kuwait, where OAPEC is based, said Mr. Attiga, who had earlier threatened to resign if the budget cut was approved, did not formally bring out the resignation issue during the Damascus meeting, but said it would be difficult for him to continue in his post.

The sources, who refused to be identified, said Tunisia insisted on withdrawing from OAPEC, maintaining its crude oil production level does not qualify it for membership.

But the source said the real reason was dissatisfaction with OAPEC's failure to implement any projects in Tunisia.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a strange Saturday. It's an excellent time for you to make plans, but obstacles and other difficulties may arise to block your efforts. Keep cool and calm.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) There are many matters in the outside world that need your attention, but don't expect things to go easily.

Taurus (Apr. 20 to May 20) You are anxious to get into new interests, so act quickly before other matters turn up.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Consider the promises you have made and how best to keep them. Pledge your word tonight.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) An outside partner may not agree with a plan you have, so carry through with it by yourself.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Get your shopping done now. Find some good bargains. Take time to see good friends later on in the evening.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Finances and other practical affairs should be first on the agenda. Study into procedures that can be helpful.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Your ideas are fine, so go ahead with them. Don't invite any troublemakers into your home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Be most careful in motion while going about your routines. Schedule your time wisely for the evening.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) See as many persons as you can, but don't bring up financial or property matters.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Get busy at your outside duties and protect the prestige you now enjoy. Don't neglect your shopping.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You get fine new ideas today. Steer clear of an older friend who limits you. Spend time with your mate.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Get busy paying pressing bills. Steer clear of an irate friend. Get to know your mate better.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he, or she, will want to be very cooperative with others and should always maintain this quality. There is also apt to be a mischievous trend here that can lead to a healthy argument from time to time, so teach self-control to this child. Success could prove phenomenal.

THE Daily Crossword by James E. Hirsch, Jr.

ACROSS

1. Encouragement
2. "Whatever"
3. "I'm not"
4. Soft drink
5. Frankfurter
6. Covered
7. Carve
8. Practically
9. "I'm not"
10. The Shadow
11. Last, no.
12. Part of GEO
13. The Shadow's
14. Cuts
15. Sugar
16. Sugar
17. This
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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

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Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



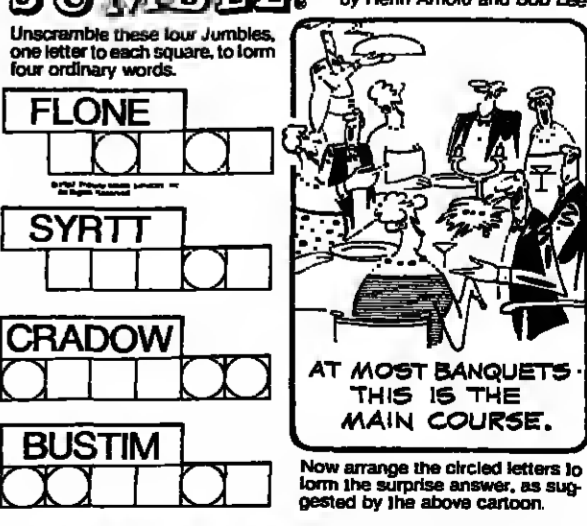
Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: WHEAT UNITY SPONGE TRUSS
Answer: It's usually less than the actual cost — A "GUESS-TIMATE"

Pretoria frees 800 detainees

Bomb blast damages Anglican church

JOHANNESBURG (R) — About 800 detainees held without trial have been freed in the past two days as South Africa entered a second year of emergency rule, an independent monitoring group said Friday.

Reporting the releases, Audrey Coleman, co-founder of the Detainees' Parents' Support Committee, said about 2,000 people were still being held under the sweeping emergency decrees imposed a year ago Friday.

"We are really delighted that people are being released," Coleman told Reuters. "But the problem is that there are still many more incarcerated, many of whom have been detained for the past year."

One of the released is a senior black Roman Catholic priest, Father Smangaliso Mkhathshwa, whose detention on the first day of the emergency last year drew worldwide protests.

An estimated 25,000 people have been held at varying periods since the emergency was declared to stamp out black political unrest. At one stage well over 10,000 were behind bars.

During his detention Fr.

Mkhathshwa, general secretary of the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference, was granted a court order to restrain the state from unlawful interrogation and molestation after allegations he had been tortured.

His lawyers warned Friday that his freedom may not be permanent. He was freed on 1,000 rand (\$500) bail and still faces prosecution on charges of possessing a firearm.

News of the priest's release was announced during a two-hour vigil at Johannesburg's Anglican Cathedral to mark the anniversary of the emergency by civil rights activist Ethel Wait.

The cathedral was the target of a petrol bomb early Friday which broke stained glass windows and badly charred a wooden entrance.

An anonymous caller to a Johannesburg newspaper claimed responsibility, saying he repre-

sented a group of Anglicans who were disgusted by what he described as the church's support for the African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla group.

The bomb broke windows and charred an entrance to St. Mary's Anglican Cathedral.

Scores of members of the Black Sash, a white women's civil rights group, stood for an hour at road junctions around the city with placards protesting against the emergency.

President P.W. Botha's white-lead government justifies the renewal of the emergency, which gives authorities sweeping powers to make arrests without trial and restricts media coverage of political unrest, on the grounds that South Africa faces a possible new eruption of violence.

In a gunfight at Soweto black township Thursday a black identified by police as a foreign-trained guerrilla was killed and two policemen were badly wounded.

A black man was killed and another wounded Thursday when they were attacked by two blacks armed with knives near Pietermaritzburg, police said Friday.

Aquino vows to get tough on rebels

MANILA (R) — President Corason Aquino vowed Friday to get tough and "bring the war" to Communist guerrillas her government has blamed for a rash of killings of soldiers and policemen in the Philippines capital.

In a speech at ceremonies marking Independence Day, Mrs. Aquino said: "The terrorists have brought the war into the city. My answer? We will bring the war to them."

Mrs. Aquino, in one of her strongest attacks against Communist rebels who have been fighting the government for 18 years, described as cowards the hit squads who have ambushed and killed 13 policemen and soldiers in the past eight days.

In the latest clash early Friday, police said a police Major killed a Communist hit man who, along with two companions, had ambushed the officer and two of his men while they were returning in their car to their station.

"They have disturbed the peace and quiet in our homes and society. It is now necessary that we will make them pay for this," Mrs. Aquino said.

The hit squads, known as "Sparrows" because of their swift attacks, had claimed responsibility for killing 16 policemen and soldiers this year before the spate of assassinations began.

Police teams backed by soldiers and sharpshooters have set up a massive dragnet throughout Manila to kill or capture the highly-trained assassins.

Mrs. Aquino assured supporters that her government could cope with the challenge posed by the Communists, now operating in most of the 73 provinces.

"The enemies of our freedom are ashamed of their cowardice and could not face our police officers in a fair fight. They are escalating their attacks to make it appear that the government is not capable of protecting the people," she said.

She called on residents to help police arrest "our cowardly enemies" and to report people in their neighbourhood they suspected of involvement in the killings.

Seoul workers protest in support of students

SEOUL (R) — More than 1,500 office workers spent their lunch hour taunting a huge force of riot police besieging hundreds of students holed up near Seoul cathedral Friday, witnesses said.

The public involvement in the two-day drama took place shortly after police threatened to storm the cathedral precinct and arrest all the anti-government protesters.

They said men in formal suits and secretaries in summer frocks stood arguing with the police in fashionable Myeongdong district and refused orders to disperse.

The witnesses said that when bystanders shouted "down with dictatorship" and slogans demanding free elections, police threw tear gas grenades near them and arrested at least 20 people.

Later, police used tear gas to disperse another group of about 1,000 students and citizens who confronted police on a main street on the edge of Myeongdong, forcing traffic to halt.

Shops and boutiques in the largely pedestrian area lowered their blinds and the air was thick with choking gas fumes. Earlier, firemen took water trucks into the streets and lanes to hose away traces of previous gas volleys.

On various Seoul campuses, thousands of students rallied and vowed to go to Myeongdong and

support their colleagues.

Outside Yonsei University, over 3,000 lay in the street defying continuous volleys of tear gas. They shouted slogans angrily protesting at an incident on the campus on Tuesday when a 20-year-old student was hit on the head by a tear gas canister. The youth is surviving on a life-support system but doctors say he will die.

Elsewhere in the city Roh Tae-woo, the government's candidate to replace President Chun Doo Hwan next year, offered at a news conference to open talks with hardline opposition groups in an effort to end the latest wave of anti-government protests.

However, Mr. Roh rejected the opposition's main demand, to reverse Mr. Chun's April 13 decision to suspend talks on introducing more democratic elections until after the 1988 Seoul Olympics. "Our decision is irreversible," he said.

Mr. Roh, 54, played down the significance of the disturbances, saying: "The majority of the people are turning their backs on these demonstrations because they value stability."

Friday morning Seoul's police chief called on the students at the Roman Catholic Cathedral to surrender or his men would treat their action as an attempt to topple the state.

Bhutto meets opposition MPs

ISLAMABAD (R) — Benazir Bhutto, Pakistan's best-known opposition politician, has had her first formal contact with a group from the parliament which she has denounced as a sham for the past two years.

Miss Bhutto and senior aides from her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) were guests at a much-publicised dinner given by some two dozen members of the parliamentary opposition group in Rawalpindi Thursday night.

"It provided a good opportunity for people to meet who had been on opposite sides of the spectrum for 10 long years," she said in an interview Friday.

The current parliament was elected in February 1985 in a controversial poll called by Presi-

dent General Mohammad Zia Ul Haq, with martial law still in force and with political parties banned.

Almost all main opposition politicians, including those in the PPP, boycotted the election. Since then the PPP and other opposition parties have refused to recognise the overwhelmingly conservative parliament as representative, campaigning instead for an immediate new vote.

Gen. Zia, who coded more than eight years of martial law in December 1985, says the parliament was democratically elected.

Miss Bhutto said that the PPP had accepted the invitation in order to encourage elements inside the "system" who were campaigning for early elections.

Church appears in support of Panama revolt

PANAMA CITY (R) — Panama's Roman Catholic Church, apparently adding its support to a nationwide revolt against military strongman Gen. Manuel Noriega, appealed to Gen. Noriega to avoid bloodshed as the beleaguered general tried to quell the popular rebellion.

Monsignor Oscar Brown, the second-ranking clergyman in Panama, told reporters the church feared a bloodbath after Gen. Noriega declared a state of emergency and sent combat-ready troops into the streets of the capital.

"We do not want a bloodbath, but we have to fight for justice," the church leader said, indicating that the church supported the mass movement calling on Noriega to relinquish power.

Together with a statement issued in Washington by the U.S. State Department calling for full democracy in Panama and a speedy end to the state of emergency, the church move appeared to put further pressure on the embattled general.

Under the state of emergency the government shut down Panama's Cable Television Network and sent censors to offices of La Prensa, the country's opposition newspaper.

As a result the paper decided not to print a Friday edition. Late Thursday, a hapless-looking President Eric Arturo Delvalle, the country's civilian president, made a national television and radio address appealing for calm.

Mr. Delvalle echoed earlier charges of an anti-government conspiracy and said, he hoped that "these transitory difficulties" will be overcome.

Mr. Delvalle is generally perceived as little more than a figurehead president. Gen. Noriega himself, known to wield the true power in Panama, made no public appearance Thursday.

The street protests erupted after Gen. Noriega's former number two in the military, retired Col. Roberto Diaz Herrera, aired accusations against Gen. Noriega, including that he was involved in the 1985 killing of government critic Hugo Spadafora.

Gen. Noriega was quoted Thursday by the Colombian radio station Radio Caracol as saying he had no intention of resigning as armed forces chief.

Estimates based on reports from the church, politicians, diplomats and residents suggested the number of people detained since the emergency was imposed was in the thousands.

India, Sri Lanka hold talks on aid to Tamils

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka and India have agreed to hold further talks on New Delhi's offer to send food aid to Tamils in the northern Jaffna peninsula, the Foreign Ministry said in Colombo Friday.

The agreement, concluded amid escalating violence on the island, followed discussions Thursday night between Foreign Minister Shaul Hameed and India's High Commissioner (Ambassador) Jyotindra Nath Dixit.

Guerrillas set off landmines Thursday killing 31 people in two attacks on buses in the north and east, where they are fighting to establish an independent homeland for the island's minority Tamil community.

Police said 18 people died when a landmine exploded under their bus at eastern Trincomalee

and another 10, all Tamils, and three soldiers died in a similar attack in Jaffna.

The violence happened a day after the government had halted a military offensive in the peninsula offered to discuss a peace formula with the rebels to end the ethnic crisis.

More than 6,000 people have been killed since widespread anti-Tamil rioting broke out in July 1983. It was sparked by the killing of 13 soldiers in Jaffna by a guerrilla group.

A brief statement said Mr. Hameed and Mr. Dixit agreed to hold another meeting to discuss further India's offer. The Sri Lankan government said last week it was willing to accept the aid through normal diplomatic procedures.

Hawke leads in polls

SYDNEY (R) — Australia's ruling Labour Party holds a comfortable lead in the run-up to elections next month despite opposition promises of big tax and spending cuts, public opinion polls showed Friday.

The polls by the Sydney Morning Herald and the Australian also showed growing scepticism over the tax-cutting policy unveiled by opposition leader John Howard two days ago.

The Herald survey in the key states of New South Wales and Victoria showed a majority of voters found the opposition tax plan attractive but unworkable.

Labour also held a clear five-point lead over the combined conservative opposition of the Liberal and National Parties. The elections will be held on July 11.

In the Australian's nationwide survey an overwhelming majority of those questioned said Labour Prime Minister Bob Hawke would manage the country's economy, industrial relations, taxation and social welfare better than the opposition.

Labour officials said the polls gave a timely boost to Mr. Hawke, who described Mr. Howard's policy as "the greatest confidence trick of Australian electoral history."

While the rich would get richer, the average Australian would gain little or nothing from Mr. Howard's tax policies," Mr. Hawke said in a radio interview.

Mr. Howard, if he became prime minister, would personally receive a tax saving of about 150 dollars (\$108) a week, Mr. Hawke said, adding: "I find that literally obscene. It is repugnant."

LONDON (Agencies) — Britain elected five black politicians to parliament Friday, the first non-whites to win seats since 1924.

They are the vanguard of a new, radical leadership for the country's 2.4 million blacks and Asians.

Among the five, all of them opposition Labour Party candidates, was the first black woman to gain election.

The five successful candidates were Diane Abbott, Bernie Grant, Paul Boateng, Keith Vaz and Mohammad Aslam. Abbott and Grant had already won considerable personal fame for outspoken and often controversial support for the rights of minorities in Britain.

Grant has frequently hit headlines in the mainly Conservative popular press, which dubbed him "Barney Bernie" for his criticism of the police and claims that Britain was almost as racist as South Africa.

He was pledged to fight for the country's non-white ethnic communities "by a mixture of persuasion and confrontation" and predicted that he and his black parliamentary colleagues would bring chaos to the House of Commons.

"Tonight, we've made history," he declared to ecstatic applause from his supporters when he was officially declared the new member of parliament for Tottenham, north London.

Boateng, a 36-year-old lawyer, abandoned the unwritten rule against making political remarks in his acceptance speech at Brent South, in north-west London, by saying: "We cannot be free in Britain until South Africa is free, too."

Vaz, another lawyer of Indian

Rebels shoot down Afghan passenger plane; kill 53

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan guerrillas firing U.S. missiles have shot down a passenger plane, killing 53 people, Afghan authorities said.

They also said that a general was shot dead by the guerrillas as he was on a peace mission.

Official Kabul Radio said the plane was hit Thursday by U.S.-supplied Stinger missiles during a domestic flight from the southern province of Zabul to Kabul.

It did not identify the type of aircraft, which it said was brought down over Zabul's Shah Guili district. Fifty-five people were on board.

The 53 dead included crew members, 10 women and 16 children, the radio said, quoting the official Bakhtar News Agency. It said the two people who survived were injured.

The radio, monitored in Islamabad, said Brigadier-General Abdul Qayyum Siddiq was shot dead in Arghandab district, near the town of Kandahar.

It gave no date of the incident, but said Gen. Siddiq was hurried Thursday in Kabul in a ceremony attended by government ministers and military officials.

The broadcast said guerrillas shot Gen. Siddiq, an army corps political chief, as he was explaining the aims of the Soviet-backed government's "national reconciliation" drive to end more than eight years of war. It gave no further details.

Western diplomats and guerrilla sources have reported heavy fighting around Kandahar in recent weeks.

The radio blamed the shooting down of the plane and Gen. Siddiq's death on "opposition extremists."

The death toll was the highest reported by the Afghan authorities in any plane they said was brought down by the rebels.

Kabul says the guerrillas have received anti-aircraft Stinger missiles from the United States and Blowpipe missiles from Britain.

Kabul has reported the downing of two other passenger aircraft in Afghanistan this year.

It said one plane was brought down by the rebels near Khost, close to Pakistan, on Feb. 9, killing 36 people. It said Pakistani fighters shot down the other, with 40 people on board in the eastern province of Paktia, on March 30.

At the time Pakistan said its planes shot down an Afghan military aircraft which had intruded into Pakistani airspace.

Fifty-two people were killed when guerrillas shot down a plane flying from Kabul to the Western province of Farah in 1985.

Meanwhile U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Thursday the United Nations was satisfied with what it had achieved so far in trying to resolve the Afghanistan question and would shortly send its representative back to the area.

"I can assure you that we are not discouraged. We continue our efforts and even a visit of my personal representative to the area is envisaged for the near future," he told a news conference.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SEARF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠972 ♣8 ♦KJ763 ♣985
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
2 ♠ Pass ?
Weak
What action do you take?
- Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠98 ♣AJ72 ♦KQ982 ♠K7
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
2 ♠ Pass ?
Weak
What do you bid now?
- Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K983 ♣AQJ95 ♦K8 ♠83
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
Weak
What do you bid now?
- Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠97 ♣J1073 ♦Q9832 ♠73
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ forcing
What do you bid now?
- Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K105 ♣AJ93 ♦KJ10 ♠Q83
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?
- Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠92 ♣Q108542 ♦985 ♠44
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass ?
Weak
What action do you take?

COLUMNS 7 & 8

'Babylon had world's first theatre'

BAGHDAD (R) — The ancient city of Babylon developed its own theatres, probably the first in the world, and did not borrow from the classical Greeks as was commonly supposed, a prominent archaeologist has said. "In fact, the Greek theatre itself was a developed version of a Babylonian theatre," Dr. Fawzi Rasheed, an authority on ancient Mesopotamian antiquities and sciences, told Al Iraq newspaper. Mr. Rasheed noted that most historians and theatrical experts thought that the world's first theatres appeared in Greece around 525 to 456 B.C. But, he said, the Babylonian word "Mumlo" corresponded to the Arabic word "mumathil" meaning actor — and this proves there was a theatre in Babylon. The shape of the Babylonian theatre differs from the classical Greek theatre, he said. "Its rectangular design represented the entrance to the lesser world, an old Babylonian religious belief dating back to 3000 years B.C." Ancient Greece did not possess such theatres, he added. The civilisation based on Babylon, 70 kilometres south west of Baghdad, flourished around 550 B.C.

Watermelon thieves get life in prison

PEKING (AP) — Two private vendors have been sentenced to life imprisonment for stealing 25,000 kilograms of watermelons from a Peking train depot in late April, the Peking Evening News has said. The report said the Peking Intermediate People's Court handed down the sentences to Lao Guixiang, 24, and Zhang Minghua, 25. Six others were given sentences ranging from two to 12 years in the case. The eight have the right to appeal. The official Xinhua News Agency said seven of the eight had criminal records. The theft, which received wide publicity in the official press and on national television, occurred on April 27 when Lao and Zhang led scores of vendors in demanding that three farmers from southern Guangdong province sell them their watermelons. The farmers, who had shipped the watermelons to Peking on two train cars, refused to sell the watermelons to the vendors, saying they were already promised to another market. Nearly 100 vendors eventually joined in the robbery, which continued until almost all the melons were gone 12 hours later. Lao and Zhang returned the next day and beat up one of the farmers when he refused to give them the remaining melons, Xinhua said. The newspaper estimated the value of the stolen melons at 14,000 yuan (\$3,800).

Ticketless rock fans clash with police

MILAN, Italy (AP) — Hundreds of ticketless fans of British singer David Bowie clashed with riot police as they tried to break their way into the arena where the rock star held his second Italian concert. Police reported that about 20 people suffered bruises or slight injuries in the disturbances. Riot police charged fans when they hurled stones and bottles and tried to break through the stadium gates after the sold-out concert had begun, authorities reported. Doctors treated 250 fans who fainted in the crowd of 80,000 people, officials said.

Water makes joke before execution

ANGOLA, Louisiana (R) — Convicted murderer Jimmy Glass joked Friday moments before he was executed in Louisiana state penitentiary here, a witness to the execution said. "I think I'd rather be fishing," were Glass's last words, according to warder, Hilton Butler, who described Glass as "the cockiest" of three killers executed in his prison since Sunday. Prosecutors described Glass during his trial as a swaggering tough who bragged of being called "satan" and played with his gun after shooting Newt Brown, 55, and his wife, Earline, 51, in north Louisiana on Christmas morning, 1982 during an \$1,800 robbery. Also convicted for the same two murders was Jimmy Wingo, 35, who is scheduled for execution on Tuesday. The electrocution began at 12:05 a.m. (0505 GMT) and Glass was pronounced dead at 12:14 a.m., Butler said. Glass's last opportunity for a fifth stay of execution was eliminated Thursday, when the U.S. Supreme Court rejected his latest appeal on a 7-2 vote.

Nancy Reagan takes ride on gondola

VENICE, Italy (R) — American first lady Nancy Reagan took a ride in a Venetian gondola and hid behind a carnival mask during an excursion in which she also visited the basilica of Saint Mark in this lagoon city. The U.S. president's wife, accompanied by the wife of Italian caretaker Prime Minister Amintore Fanfani and Ruth Rabb, wife of the U.S. ambassador to Rome, were shown around the splendid 11th century basilica in an atmosphere of tight security. Dozens of police had cleared the main Saint Mark's Square, bordered on three sides by elegant cafes and luxury shops, of all visitors before she arrived.

Alaskan ice is hot commodity in Japan

TOKYO (R) — In the throes of Japan's sultry summer, the hottest commodity in Japanese department stores these days is Alaskan ice. A television network showed queues of people crowding a department store freezer case to snatch one of the plastic one kilogramme bags of ice emblazoned with an Eskimo logo. None of the customers interviewed on television could pinpoint any difference between the 190 yen (\$1.33) exotic Alaskan ice and the humble tap water product. But the fact is a real one. A store manager said sales of the ice imported from Alaska's Prince of Wales Island had soared and at least one newspaper cartoonist was inspired to parody the phenomenon.

Young Americans want to date Mrs. Reagan

BALTIMORE (R) — Nancy Reagan is the woman most young American men would like to spend an evening with, according to a Gallup poll published Tuesday. According to Fast Lane magazine which commissioned the poll, the first lady finished first, beating such competition as television stars Heather Locklear and Cybill Shepherd, film star Raquel Welch and model Christie Brinkley. The magazine said 3.7 per cent of 400 men aged between 25 and 34 named Mrs. Reagan when asked the open-ended question of who they would most like to spend an evening with. Locklear and Welch tied for second place with 2.7 per cent. Shepherd finished third with 2.6 per cent and Brinkley fourth with 2.5 per cent.

Marine with AIDS sues military

BOSTON (AP) — Martin Gaffney is still proud to be a Marine, but he believes it is the military's fault that his wife and son are dead of AIDS and that he is facing certain death. Gaffney, 38, a chief warrant officer, is suffering from acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). His wife, Mitsuko, 38, died on May 31 of complications from AIDS, and his son, John, died at the age of 13 months last summer from the incurable disease. Gaffney has filed a \$55-million claim against the navy, alleging its doctors botched his wife's first pregnancy, which resulted in a stillbirth, and gave her a blood transfusion contaminated with the AIDS virus. The claim is under review by the judge advocate general of the navy, according to a navy spokesman in Washington D.C. He declined further comment. Gaffney said he wants to spur a congressional investigation into military medical care and to provide for his 3½-year-old daughter, who is not infected and will likely be an orphan. "Military hospitals are understaffed and doctors are not adequately trained to do what they're asked to do," Gaffney said in an interview last week. "I feel like I have an opportunity to make a change." Gaffney and his wife were married in 1981, three years after they met in Okinawa, Japan.